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THE HINDU

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
Vol.53 • No.173
20 pages • ₹6.00

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NEARBY

Cong. workers held for setting fire to their car

BENGALURU

The police stepped up vigil after two parked cars were set on fire in separate incidents at Shanthinagar bus stand and another in Seshadripuram on Thursday by Youth Congress activists.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 8

Free power to IP sets owned by coffee planters

BENGALURU

In a major relief to small and medium coffee planters, the State government on Thursday issued an order to provide free electricity for pump sets up to 10 hp.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 5

Monkeypox: Two beds set aside in dist. hospitals

BENGALURU

Following the reporting of a second case of monkeypox in Kerala on July 18, State Health Commissioner Randeep D. has asked all district hospitals to designate two beds each for isolation of suspected/confirmed cases.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

METROPLUS ▸ PAGE 7

NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu elected 15th President of India

Amid heavy cross-voting, she received 64.03% of the total valid votes polled

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Former Jharkhand Governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu was elected the 15th President of India, the first tribal woman to be appointed to the position and the youngest as well.

She was declared elected on Thursday after four rounds of counting, though she had crossed the halfway mark after the third round of counting, posting an unassailable lead over her rival and the Opposition's candidate, Yashwant Sinha, who conceded the election thereafter.

After four rounds of polling, Ms. Murmu received 2,824 votes of 6,76,803 value, while Mr. Sinha received 1,877 votes of 3,80,177 value. She received 64.03% of the total valid votes polled, much more than what was openly declared in her support and pointing to the fact there had been a lot of cross-voting in Ms. Murmu's favour from the Opposition ranks.

"In my capacity as Returning Officer, I duly declare that Smt. Droupadi Murmu has been duly elected as President of India," said P.C. Mody, Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, who was the Returning Officer for the election.

Ultimate win: PM Narendra Modi with President-elect Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

'India scripts history'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first to greet Ms. Murmu at her residence in New Delhi after the third round of counting showed that she had crossed the halfway mark. "India scripts history. At a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President!" tweeted Mr. Modi, adding that "Smt Droupadi Murmu's life, her early struggles, her rich service and her success motivates each and every Indian. She has emerged as a ray of hope for our citizens especially the poor, marginalised and the downtrodden."

Ms. Murmu, who had been a former Governor of Jharkhand, hails from the Santhal tribe and was born in Mayurbhanj, coming up the hard way in life, graduating and teaching in Odisha before entering politics at the local body level and later being elected MLA and serving as a Minister from 2000 to 2004.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 13

Trinamool not to vote in V-P poll

The Trinamool Congress on Thursday said that the party's MPs would abstain from voting in the Vice-Presidential election on August 6. "The way the Opposition candidate [Margaret Alva] had been decided without proper consultation, we have decided to abstain from the voting process," Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee said. ▸ PAGE 13

Dinesh Gunawardena likely to be named Sri Lankan PM

President Ranil invites all parties to join the govt.

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was sworn in as President of Sri Lanka on Thursday, is expected to appoint long-time Rajapaksa loyalist and senior politician Dinesh Gunawardena as Prime Minister, a source close to the President's office told *The Hindu*.

Further, Mr. Wickremesinghe will continue with the last-appointed Cabinet until Opposition parties are "ready to cooperate" in an all-party government, the source said, requesting anonymity. Cabinet members will be sworn in on Friday morning, the President's office said.

Dinesh Gunawardena

President Wickremesinghe, who faces fierce public criticism for joining the discredited Rajapaksa government earlier, has invited all parties to join his government to combat the national economic crisis, which set off political upheaval and led to changes at the island nation's helm. Opposition parties are yet to signal their willingness.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Sonia appears before ED

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case linked to the *National Herald* newspaper, leading to protests by her party supporters in several parts of the country. Many Opposition leaders also expressed solidarity with Ms. Gandhi.

In Delhi, Congress MPs took out a symbolic march from Parliament to highlight "political vendetta" and "misuse" of Central agencies against political rivals. "All Congress MPs and Congress Working Committee members have courted mass arrest outside our party headquarters in a show of collective solidarity with Sonia Gandhi, a target of *Vishguru*'s political vendetta," Congress' communication chief Jairam Ramesh said after the march.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

State tops innovation index again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

For the third time in a row, Karnataka has ranked first among major States in the Niti Aayog's innovation index. The State is followed by Telangana and Haryana.

The index has been developed on the lines of the Global Innovation Index.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 12

Four workers killed as shed collapses due to downpour

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Four construction labourers were killed and four others injured when the shed they were staying in collapsed on them due to heavy rain at Anugondanahalli industrial area in Hoskote of Karnataka on Thursday.

The victims were living with nine other labourers in makeshift houses at the under-construction residential apartment complex site. Due to heavy rain that started lashing the city on Wednesday night, a part of the 8-ft high warehouse compound adjacent to the construction site collapsed on the house, burying the labourers under the sheets and boulders. The rain water gushing into the area made it difficult for them to escape . However, one of the them was saved by other labourers. The deceased have been identified as Manoj Kumar Sadai, 35, Ramkumar Sadai, 25, Nitish Kumar Sadai, 22, and Montu Das, 22, from Madhubani district of Bihar. The injured Sunil Mandal, 29, Shambu Mandal, 28, Dileep, 25 and Durgesh, 24, have been admitted to Vydehi hospital in Whitefield.

A police team inspecting the site in Hoskote.

Superintendent of Police Kona Vamsi Krishna visited the spot. Based on the complaint, a case of death due to negligence has been registered against the owner of the site and the godown for further investigation.

Kashmiri nuptials

In all finery: Kashmiri Muslim brides attending a mass wedding in Srinagar on Thursday. • NISSAR AHMAD

OBC quota in ULBs: Report ready for submission to SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The process of holding elections to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) has gained momentum as K. Bhakthavatsala commission, which was set up to study political representation for other backward classes (OBCs) in ULBs, submitted its report on Thursday to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

This will now be submitted to the Supreme Court.

It has recommended reservation of 33% of the total seats for OBCs in ULB elections.

However, it suggested that the aggregate of reservation of seats in favour of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs should not exceed 50% of the total seats.

SC instruction

The commission was constituted following a Supreme Court instruction in a case related to ensuring suitable representation for backward classes in panchayat raj institutions and ULBs.

This comes close on the heels of the report on delimitation of BBMP wards also being submitted, paving the way for elections to Bengaluru's civic body.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 5

Temple at Somanathapur getting a makeover

ASI has been sprucing up the last of the Hoysala temples, which will be inspected by a UNESCO team

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

The 13th century Keshava temple, described as "poetry in stone", is getting a makeover ahead of the proposed visit of the UNESCO team to inspect the Hoysala monument nominated for inscription as a World Heritage Site.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has begun sprucing up the last of the great Hoysala temples located close to the Cauvery and was built by Soma or Somanatha, a high-ranking officer under the Hoysala King Narasimha III (1254-1291 CE), in 1268 CE.

Works under way at the Keshava temple at Somanathapur near Mysuru. The monument has been nominated for inscription as a World Heritage Site. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hoysala classics

The Keshava or the Kesava temple at Somanathapur is clubbed with two other Hoysala classics — Chennakeshava temple at Belur and Hoysaleshwara temple at Halebid — and are together India's official nomination seeking UNESCO World Heritage status this year.

In connection with it, the UNESCO team is tentatively scheduled to visit Somanathapur to inspect the monument along with the temples at Belur and Halebid. There has been a flurry of activity ever since the three monuments were officially nominated by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, for inscription as a UNESCO site.

Senior officials of the ASI —including its Director-General Vidyavathi — recently paid a visit to Somanathapur and inspected the ongoing works.

Chemical treatment

Both the exteriors and the interiors of the temple, including the sculptures, are being cleaned and spruced up using a light chemical solution to remove the accumulated grime. Meanwhile, tourists visiting the temple will be deprived of soaking in the monument in its full glory as scaffoldings have been erected to cover the towers to facilitate the ongoing work.

A team of ASI officials are supervising the works which commenced early July and is expected to be completed by the end of August or early September. In addition to removing the grime, the ASI is also redoing the landscaping on the premises of the monument, besides modernising the existing amenities.

Meanwhile, the local community living close to the monument is perturbed about the developments as there is a perception that they could be evicted or there would be hindrance in undertaking repair works or reconstruction or extension of their existing houses once the temple is inscribed as a UNESCO site.

Devaraj, a licensed guide at the temple, said that there is confusion over the fate of the local community as at present there is a 100 metre prohibitory area around protected monuments that restrict development works. Though the Centre had stated that it would amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, to make the rule more site-specific, there was no clarity on the issue, he said.

The issue was also raised by T. Narsipur MLA Ashwin Kumar at a recent meeting of the Tourism Department who said that the locals should not be disturbed at any cost.

BMTC's digital passes generate ₹2.5 crore revenue in July

This comes on the back of rising popularity of Tummoc app

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Going digital has not just got passengers of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses happy, but it has also brought good tidings for the corporation. Buying daily, weekly and monthly passes has become easier for passengers since April with the introduction of 'Tummoc', a digital transportation app, and with its growing popularity, the corporation has been able to generate a revenue of ₹2.5 crore within 20 days of July.

Previously, daily passes had to be bought from conductors, and monthly passes from specific bus depots on specific dates only. The monthly passes could be availed of only by those who had BMTC ID cards. From July, this rule was done away with, and commuters can now use any kind of ID cards to get these passes. Even on the app, one can scan their ID cards and get passes. Vajra and Vayu Vajra (Volvo buses) passes can also be bought on the app.

Revenue generated through digital passes

Month	Revenue
April	₹ 21 lakhs
May	₹ 82 lakhs
June	₹ 1.48 crores
July (20 days)	₹ 2.5 crores

Types of passes with prices on the app

Type of pass	Price
Ordinary day pass	₹ 70
Vajra gold day pass	₹ 100
Ordinary weekly pass	₹ 300
Ordinary service monthly pass	₹ 1,050
Vajra gold monthly pass	₹ 1,500
Vayu Vajra gold pass	₹ 3,650

"I was spending ₹70 every day on daily passes as I did not have time to stand in queues to get my monthly pass. For this, I always had to get change ready as most conductors used to get irritated if I gave them a ₹200 or ₹500 note. As I got to know about this app, I bought a monthly pass of ₹1,500 on July 1, and now I can happily travel everywhere in the city, even in AC buses, without worrying about having cash in my wallet", said Sneha A., an MNC employee from Yelahanka.

"In May and June, I had noticed the QR code posters in some buses. But now it seems like all the buses have them. I take buses two or three days a week and I buy my daily passes on the app in the morning before leaving home. They have recently started cashback offers also," said Naren K., from R.T. Nagar.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Pending complaints

26,518 The number of appeals and complaints pending with the Central Information Commission as of July 18, 2022, according to Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh. The Minister informed that all the States had been requested to explore the feasibility of implementing online Right To Information applications. He also added that the National Informatics Centre has been requested to provide technical support to the State governments for the same. PTI

Admission of IAS officers

397 The number of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers who joined the Centre in the last five years, out of the 563 available for central deputation, according to the government. As many as 124 IAS officers were on offer for central deputation in 2021, of which 72 were appointed, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said. A total of 147 IAS officers were repatriated from central deputation during the last five years on various grounds such as to avail benefit of promotion in the parent cadre. PTI

Remittance inflow

87 In $ billion, the remittance received by India in 2021, the top remittance recipient among low- and middle-income countries, and way ahead of countries like China and Mexico, according to a World Health Organization report. The U.S. was the largest source country for remittances in 2020, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland. Remittances increase or maintain consumer spending and soften the blow of economic hardship, during times of crisis such the COVID-19 pandemic. PTI

UAPA arrests

24,134 The number of people who were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) between 2016 and 2020, according to the government in Parliament. In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that 386 people accused under the UAPA were acquitted by different courts. A total of 5,027 cases were registered under the UAPA from 2016 to 2020 in various parts of the country. PTI

Vehicle recalls

13 In lakh, the number of vehicles recalled in 2021-22 over safety issues. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said 8.64 lakh two-wheelers and 4.67 passenger cars were recalled in 2021-22, a three-year high. While more than 3.39 lakh vehicles (two-wheelers and passenger cars) were recalled in 2020-21, the number of vehicles recalled in 2019-20 stood at 2.14 lakh. Replying to a separate question, Mr. Gadkari said that a total 47,984 people died due to accidents on national highways in 2020. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Kerala's fight against monkeypox

What are the various steps being taken by the State Health department to stop transmission? How does it help other States?

THE GIST

- On July 14, Kerala detected the first case of monkeypox in the country in a 35-year old returning from UAE. Four days later, the authorities confirmed a second case also in a passenger from UAE.
- A Standard Operating Procedure prepared by the Kerala government with regard to monkeypox is a detailed document which outlines the steps that need to be followed with regard to the isolation, treatment and sample collection of suspected and probable cases of the disease which are reported to the healthcare facilities of the State.
- All districts were asked to strengthen field-level surveillance of cases with fever and rashes along with one or more of these symptoms — enlarged lymph nodes, headache, bodyache and profound weakness.

MAYA JOHN

The story so far: On July 14, Kerala detected the first case of monkeypox in the country in a 35-year-old, who had flown into Thiruvananthapuram from the UAE. Four days later, the authorities confirmed a second case, this time at Kannur again in a passenger from the UAE. While both patients are in isolation and treatment, the State Health department has strengthened surveillance and control measures across all districts.

Why did cases first surface in Kerala?
As a State with four international airports, a sizeable expatriate population and being a globally favoured travel destination, the probability of any newly emerging pathogen first arriving at the shores of Kerala has always been high. The State Health authorities are, therefore, relieved that the health system managed to pick up the first two cases of monkeypox, an affirmation of the robustness and efficiency of the State's disease surveillance mechanism.

In Thiruvananthapuram as well as Kannur, the patients themselves had approached the doctors/authorities, raising the suspicion that they might have contracted monkeypox. Doctors point to the increased public awareness, the high level of clinical suspicion maintained by the medical fraternity about the new disease and the social commitment of the people that led to the detection of the monkeypox cases.

What are the steps being taken by Kerala?
One of the first public health messages sent out by the Health department was that there was no need for the public to panic as monkeypox was not a disease which could spread through the air like COVID-19.

However, the public needed to be vigilant about maintaining all universal precautions that were put in place when COVID-19 was first reported.

As soon as the patient was isolated, close contacts were also isolated. A list of primary contacts for contact tracing was also drawn up. The contacts were put on symptom surveillance for 21 days and the respective districts were asked to monitor them closely.

Furthermore, monkeypox advisories were sent out to districts which resulted in the setting up of State and district-level monitoring cells. All districts were asked to set up isolation facilities in select hospitals and special ambulances to transport sick persons.

Next, all districts were asked to strengthen field-level surveillance of cases with fever and rashes along with one or more of these symptoms – enlarged lymph nodes, headache, bodyache and profound weakness. Help desks were set up at all airports, with trained health workers manning them.

The official confirmation of both monkeypox cases came from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. However, as part of the surveillance network, strengthening of in-house diagnostic facility was important to avoid delays in treatment. A monkeypox testing facility was thus made available at NIV's field unit at Alapuzha.

How should monkeypox cases be treated?
The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prepared by the Kerala government with regard to monkeypox is a detailed document which outlines the steps that need to be followed with regard to the isolation, treatment and sample collection of suspected and probable cases of the disease which are reported to the healthcare facilities of the State.

All healthcare institutions in the State in the public and private sector are expected to strictly follow the SOP when dealing with monkeypox or cases with similar symptoms. A person having a history of travel to monkeypox-affected countries within the last 21 days and presenting an unexplained acute rash with one or more of the earlier mentioned symptoms is defined as a 'suspected case' under the SOP.

The SOP details how the samples are to be collected as per NIV's directives and the precautions that health personnel have to take when a case has to be transported in an ambulance.

What does this mean for other States?
The fact that monkeypox has not been documented in other States does not mean that the virus has not reached other parts of the country. Kerala detecting the first two cases from international travellers is a signal to other States to strengthen their surveillance networks, especially surveillance among travellers, so that source cases can be identified at the earliest and prevented from establishing other contacts in the community.

States will have to focus on creating more awareness about monkeypox and its transmission dynamics among the public, the medical community and health workers so that they learn to maintain a high index of suspicion when encountering cases of fever with rashes. While airport surveillance has a huge role, monkeypox has a long incubation period and it is possible that some passengers who may have been infected, may develop symptoms only much later. These cases can be detected from the community only if adequate awareness is created.

Is Kerala worried about community transmission of monkeypox?
Public health experts point out that given the transmission dynamics of monkeypox, the secondary attack rate of the virus is less than 10%, indicating that even amongst close family contacts of confirmed cases, the chances of monkeypox spreading are remote. In fact, the Health department confirmed that two of the close contacts of the very first case of monkeypox had tested negative for the virus (they will however remain in surveillance for 21 days).

What is now worrying the health experts are reports from the U.K. and some other European nations that many recent cases of monkeypox have been presenting with atypical symptoms – sometimes with no fever at all and the lesions few or confined to the genital region. It was reported that for many of the recent cases, health authorities had no idea how the person contracted the virus. In Belgium, asymptomatic cases were also detected.

Extreme high-risk skin-to-skin contact seems to be the way in which the virus is getting transmitted and hence the Health department will also be tapping into its HIV surveillance network to sharpen surveillance and sensitise MSM (men who have sex with men) communities about the threat of a sustained transmission of monkeypox.

On guard: International passengers being screened at the Chennai airport following the detection of a case of monkeypox in Kerala. • PTI

EXPLAINER

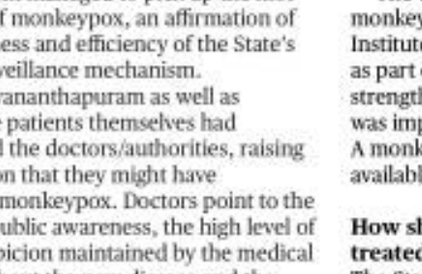
One year since the Pegasus spyware revelations

How does the Pegasus spyware operate? Who does it target and why is the government under scrutiny?

P.J. GEORGE
SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: The Supreme Court will be hearing the case pertaining to the alleged use of the Pegasus spyware software later this month. Last year, a consortium of 17 journalistic organisations globally put forth a list alleging the use of the spyware by the Union government to snoop on several prominent individuals. The matter first reached the apex court on October 27 last year. Back then, the court constituted a committee, overseen by former Supreme Court judge Justice R.V Raveendran, to look into the charges and accordingly submit a report "expeditiously".

What were the objectives of the committee?
The committee overseen by Justice R.V Raveendran was mandated to inquire, investigate and determine, among other things, if Pegasus was used to eavesdrop on phones and other devices of Indian citizens. Details were sought on whether the government had taken any action after reports emerged in 2019 about WhatsApp accounts being hacked by the same spyware and if the government had indeed acquired such a suite. The article had alleged that Pegasus was part of a $2 billion "package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear" between India and Israel after Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel. It added that it was after this deal that India changed its historically pro-Palestine stance.



What is Pegasus?
The Pegasus spyware can not only mop up information stored on phones such as photos and contacts, but can also activate a phone's camera and microphone and turn it into a spying device without the owner's knowledge.

The earliest avatars of Pegasus used spear phishing to enter phones, utilising a message designed to entice the target to click on a malicious link. However, it evolved into using "zero-click" attacks wherein the phones were infected without any action from the target individual. In 2019, WhatsApp released a statement saying that Pegasus could enter phones via calls made on the platform, even if they were not attended. Pegasus used several such "exploits" to enter Android and Apple phones. Many of these exploits were reportedly "zero day", which meant that even the device manufacturers were unaware of these weaknesses. Pegasus can also be delivered through a nearby wireless transmitter, or manually inserted if the target phone is physically available. Once inside the phone, Pegasus can start transmitting any data stored on the phone to its command-and-control centres.

How was Pegasus used in India?
Reports that appeared in July 2021 from the Pegasus Project, which includes *The Wire* in India, *The Guardian* in the U.K., and *The Washington Post* in the U.S., said that in India, at least 40 journalists, Cabinet Ministers, and holders of constitutional positions were possibly subjected to surveillance using Pegasus. The reports were based on a database of about 50,000 phone numbers accessed by the Paris-based non-profit Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International. These numbers were reportedly of interest to clients of the NSO Group (developer of the Pegasus software). According to *The Guardian*, Amnesty International's Security Lab tested 67 of the phones linked to the Indian numbers in the database and found that "23 were successfully infected and 14 showed signs of attempted penetration".

Since Pegasus is graded as a cyberweapon and can only be sold to authorised government entities as per Israeli law, most reports have suggested that the governments in these countries are the clients.

What has been the fallout?
The Indian government has so far neither confirmed nor denied that it has deployed Pegasus for any operation. In the wake of the Pegasus Project revelations, several petitions were filed with the Supreme Court alleging that the government had indulged in mass surveillance in an attempt to muzzle free speech and democratic dissent. In response to the petitions, the Supreme Court asked the Centre to file a detailed affidavit regarding the use of Pegasus. However, the Centre refused to comply, arguing that such a public affidavit would compromise national security. Following this, the Supreme Court had appointed the expert panel led by Justice R.V. Raveendran. The Government has so far not responded to the *NYT* report, except for Minister of State Gen (Retd) V.K. Singh calling *The New York Times* a "supari" (hit-job) newspaper.

What do Indian laws outline?
Section 5(2) of The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, states that the government can intercept a "message or class of messages" when it is "in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence". The operational process for it appears in Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951. Rule 419A was added to the Telegraph Rules after the verdict in the *People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs Union of India* case, in which the Supreme Court said telephonic conversations are covered by the right to privacy, which can be breached only if there are established procedures. Under Rule 419A, surveillance needs the sanction of the Home Secretary at the Central or State level, but in "unavoidable circumstance" can be cleared by a Joint Secretary or officers above, if they have the Home Secretary's authorisation. In the *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* verdict of 2017, the Supreme Court further reiterated the need for oversight of surveillance, stating that it should be legally valid and serve a legitimate aim of the government.

The second legislation enabling surveillance is Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. It facilitates government "interception or monitoring or decryption of any information through any computer resource" if it is in the interest of the "sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign States or public order" or for preventing or investigating any cognisable offence. The procedure for it is detailed in the Information Technology Rules, 2009.

These rules, according to Apar Gupta, lawyer and executive director of the Internet Freedom Foundation, are very broad and allow even the redirection of traffic to false websites or the planting of any device to acquire information. Mr. Gupta is of the opinion that the use of Pegasus is illegal as it constitutes unauthorised access under Section 66 of the Information Technology Act. Section 66 prescribes punishment to anyone who gains unauthorised access and "downloads, copies or extracts any data", or "introduces or causes to be introduced any computer contaminant or computer virus," as laid down in Section 43.

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court would be hearing the case pertaining to the alleged use of the Pegasus spyware software later this month. The matter first reached the apex court on October 27 last year. Back then, the court constituted a committee to look into the charges and accordingly submit a report "expeditiously".
- The Pegasus spyware can not only mop up information stored on phones such as photos and contacts, but can also activate a phone's camera and microphone and turn it into a spying device without the owner's knowledge.
- Reports that appeared in July 2021 said that in India, at least 40 journalists, Cabinet Ministers, and holders of constitutional positions were possibly subjected to surveillance using Pegasus. The Indian government has so far neither confirmed nor denied that it has deployed Pegasus for any operation.

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NORTH BANGALORE: **NEXA HEBBAL ORR** (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9513838777), **NEXA YELAHANKA** (MANDOVI MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9916805500), **EAST BANGALORE:** **NEXA ORR MARATHALLI** (BIMAL AUTO AGENCY PH: 08030693069), **NEXA BANASWADI** (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9845690733), **CENTRAL BANGALORE:** **NEXA MUSEUM ROAD** (PRATHAM MOTORS PH: 9880006006), **NEXA PALACE** (MANDOVI MOTORS PH: 7022623068),
SOUTH BANGALORE: **NEXA ELECTRONIC CITY** (SURAKSHAA CAR CARE PVT. LTD. PH: 80-25732229, 8884442229), **NEXA JP NAGAR** (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9590990011), **NEXA SARJAPUR ROAD** (PRATHAM MOTORS PH: 9008455550), **NEXA KORAMANGALA** (KATARIA AUTOMOBILES PVT. LTD. PH: 8046837002), **TUMKUR:** **NEXA SIRA ROAD** (SAKETH AUTOMOBILES PH: 9900500051), **MYSORE:** **NEXA VINOBA ROAD** (MANDOVI MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9148973098), **NEXA VANI VILASA ROAD** (FRIENDLY MOTORS (INDIA) PVT. LTD. PH: 8095454545), **HASSAN:** **NEXA THANNIRUHALLA** (VENKAT MOTORS PH: 8762477359).

Creative visualization | Black glass on the vehicle is due to lighting effect | Features are variant specific | For details on functioning of safety features, including air bag, kindly refer to the Owner's Manual.

Metro fails to decongest junction

Goraguntepalya is an important junction on Tumakuru Road as it connects ORR

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

After Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) started commercial operations on the Green Line of Namma Metro, it was expected that traffic congestion on Tumakuru Road would come down, as it would have a metro network for over 10 km from Sandal Soap Factory station to Nagasandra.

Contrary to this expectation, traffic congestion has been increasing over the years and navigating Goraguntepalya, one of the prominent junctions on the busy road, has remained a nightmare.

Multiple projects were proposed to decongest the junction in the last one decade, but most of them remained in cold storage. Goraguntepalya is an important junction on Tumakuru Road as it connects the Outer Ring Road and the traffic moves towards Nelamangala via the junction. Tumakuru Road connects Bengaluru with over 20 districts.

Multiple projects were proposed to decongest Goraguntepalya Junction, in the last one decade, but most of them remained in cold storage. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Short-term measures proposed / implemented

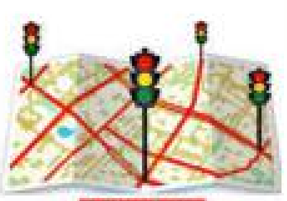
- Repairing of road, removal of traffic police kiosks hindering traffic movement, construction of skywalks, bus shelters and public toilets.

Long-term proposals pending

- Construction of underpass linking ORR, grade-level road up to ALSIDA, construction of elevated road from ALISDA to BEL Junction, grade-level road up to Water Pipeline Road, and others
- Terminating long-distance buses at Peenya bus stand to decongest the road

> This is a major bus stop. There is a need for skywalks to cross the road. It is very difficult to cross the road as vehicles come to the junction from different directions.
>
> VIJAYA KUMAR, a passenger

> The short-term measures have helped to clear congestion at a marginal level. There is a proposal to remove the traffic police kiosk and give a free left turn for vehicles coming from Hebbal side and moving towards Yeshwanthpur side.
>
> A POLICE OFFICIAL



Mission Decongestion

Goraguntepalya junction

Recently, the heads of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike inspected the junction and some short-term measures were taken up that include filling up potholes and asphalting the road.

A police official said the short-term measures have helped to clear congestion at a marginal level, but pointed out that considering the safety of the pedestrians, there is a need for construction of a skywalk across Tumakuru Road and ORR side.

"Every day, hundreds of people, including those travelling in long-distance buses, get down at Goraguntepalya to reach other destinations in the city. In the absence of skywalks, crossing the road is a challenge. Sometimes, when over 50 pedestrians cross the road together, the traffic police usually guide them to cross the road by blocking the traffic."

Absence of public toilets and bus shelters also cause a lot of inconvenience to the public. Joseph Thomas, a motorist, added, "Reaching Goraguntepalya from Hebbal is a big challenge. The traffic gridlock on MES flyover is routine. Near the approach point of the flyover, the road is narrow and cannot handle the large number of vehicles coming from the Hebbal side. The authorities should come out with solutions to address the issue".

In 2018, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) proposed several plans to decongest the area. The proposed plans included construction of an underpass and grade-level road up to ALISDA, construction of elevated road from ALISDA to BEL junction, and grade-level road up to Water Pipeline Road.

A senior official of the BDA said, "To decongest the junction and for smooth flow of traffic towards ORR (BEL side), the BDA had come with three options. The project cost ranges from ₹424 crore to ₹1,112 crore. To implement the project, Defence land is required. To minimise the acquisition cost, the State government was also asked to consider the option of compensating by giving government land of the same value to the Defence authorities. The State government has to decide on the matter".

Recently, BMRCL had asked the BBMP to consult them before allowing any construction works on ORR as it would come in the way of the proposed metro elevated corridor from Hebbal to J.P. Nagar.

To reduce the congestion, the civic heads also asked the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation to find out the feasibility of terminating long-distance buses at Peenya bus stand. The stand has remained underutilised for years. Opening the Peenya flyover to heavy vehicles or at least buses would help to decongest the traffic. Heavy vehicles have been barred from the flyover for over six months.

(Mission Decongestion is a series on some of the worst traffic junctions in Bengaluru that the civic authorities hope to decongest)

Power shutdown today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11 KV Khodays Glass Factory MUSS in view of periodic maintenance works.

According to a press release from BESCOM, HSR Layout Division, the following areas will be affected. They are: Avalahalli, Royal lake front, Raghavanapalya, Avalahalli slum board, BDA Layout, Ganigarapalya, Nagegowdanapalya, Royal Park, Srinivasa Layout, Narayan Nagar 1st and 2nd Stage, Narayana Nagar 2nd Block, BCCHS Layout, Anjanapura, Nandi Garden and Muniyappa Layout.

Cook and assistant in the soup for assaulting patrolling policemen

The two were allegedly found creating a ruckus on the road

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Yeshwanthpur police have arrested a 26-year-old cook and his assistant for allegedly attacking policemen on the night patrol, in an inebriated state early on Thursday.

The two persons, identified as Tejas Pawar, 26, from Shivamogga, and his assistant, Roopesh R., 23, from Divanarapalya, were allegedly found creating a ruckus in the middle of the road, after parking their scooter haphazardly on HMT Road around 1.30 a.m.

Head constable B. Somashekhar and constable Sangappa, who were on their rounds, confronted the duo and questioned their behaviour.

Heated arguments ensued, following which the duo allegedly assaulted Mr. Sangappa and tore his uniform.

The duo also attacked Mr. Somashekhar who tried to rescue his colleague.

With the help of a few passers-by, the policemen managed to pin down the duo and called the Hoysala patrolling vehicle for backup.

They were later brought to the station and charged with assaulting a public servant while on duty, wrongful restraint, and criminal intimidation.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION, DIVISION CHIKODI
Tel. No.: 08338-275101, E-mail : ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com

No.: EE/RDW&S/DN-CKD/PB/KW1&2/TENDER/2022-23/24/1103 Date : 19-07-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of Govt. of Karnataka according to KTTP act 2000 through e-procurement portal for the below mentioned works.

Work Indent No.: 26371/CALL-3

II) Calendar events are as follows :
i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting : **22-07-2022 time 11.00 am** @EE RDW&S Division Chikodi.
ii) Last date and time for receipt of tenders through e-portal **25-07-2022 upto 17.00 hours.**
iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : on **26-07-2022 at 17.30 hours.**
iv) Date of Opening of Financial bid on after approval of technical bid

III) Other conditions and eligibility criteria etc are as published in e-procurement portal. More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.

Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**
RDW&S Division Chikodi

DIPO/BGM/589/2022-23

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. MYS-COMML-31-MPS-2022 Dated: 19.07.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites tender for award of license to install and operate nine (9) Multi Purpose Stalls at various railway stations on Mysuru Division for a period of five years.
Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 12:00 hrs. of 25.08.2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mysuru
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 07-SNT-MYS-2022 Dated: 20.07.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work:

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Provision of automatic Smoke, Fire detection & Alarm system for Signal & Telecommunication installation at 25 stations [SPV-TLGP, MBBC-MVC, KRVL-HHT & NHY-BDRL Sections].	Rs. 1,90,34,114.37

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 12.08.2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Mysuru
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 09/2022 Dated: 14.07.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work:
Description of Work: Supply of Electric Point Operating Machine IRS type 143 mm throw non trailable to operate on 110V DC complete with lock and detector slides and cable terminal box along with standard tool kit set for every 8 Point Machines conforming to RDSO Specn. No. IRS : S 24/2002 (Amd. 1) & for Motor IRS : S-37/82 Assy. Drg. No. RDSO S/108000 Motor Drg. No. RDSS/ 10910 with ground connection for IRS point machine. (suitable for 60 Kg rails). **(Tender No. L8225662) (Qty: 42 Nos.)**
Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 14:00 hrs. of 18.08.2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Girinagar 3rd Phase (16222),
#178, G M Plaza, Avalahalli Main Road, Girinagar, BSK 3rd Stage,
Bengaluru- 560085, Tel No: 080-25943777, Fax: 080-25943778, Email: sbi.16222@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SUB SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED "ACT")

At the request of the under mentioned Borrower- **M/s Bulls Eye Media Pvt. Ltd.**, State Bank of India through its **Girinagar 3rd Phase Branch, Bengaluru** has extended various credit facilities to it by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The relevant particulars of the said credit facilities and the security agreement(s)/document(s) executed by the borrower, guarantors, corporate guarantor & mortgagors are furnished in the Demand Notice dated **04.07.2022.** The said financial assistance is also secured by the personal guarantees of the guarantors namely **(1) Shri Mukesh Kumar,** S/o Shri Bhimraj, Director, **(2) Shri Anant Murlidhar Zade,** S/o Shri Murlidhar Hari Babu Zade, Director, **(3) Smt. Vandana,** D/o Shri Bhimraj, Director, **(4) Shri Jeethmal Mutha,** S/o Shri Bhimraj, Director **(5) Smt. Babli Devi,** W/o Shri Bhimraj, Director **(6) Smt. Archana Anant Zade,** W/o Shri Anant Zade, Director and Corporate Guarantor, **(7) M/s Sidhachal Constructions and Developers Pvt. Ltd.,** represented by its Managing Director, Shri Bhimraj, S/o Shri Mishrimalji.Further, **(1) Shri Jeethmal Mutha,** S/o Shri Bhimraj, have also created mortgage over his individual immovable property and **(1) Shri Jeethmal Mutha,** S/o Shri Bhimraj & **(2) Shri Mukesh Kumar,** S/o Shri Bhimraj, have jointly created mortgage over their immovable property and Corporate Guarantor **(3)M/s Sidhachal Constructions and Developers Pvt. Ltd.,** Represented by Managing Director, Shri Bhimraj, S/o Shri Mishrimalji have also created mortgage over its individual immovable property by way of deposit of original title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The relevant particulars of the said assets are also specifically furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset on **29.06.2022** in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. Demand Notice dated **04.07.2022** u/s 13(2) of the said Act was duly served on the borrower(s) and guarantors/mortgagors, Corporate Guarantor/Mortgagor. As some of the envelopes containing the said Demand Notice sent by register AD to the borrower(s)/guarantors/mortgagors, Corporate Guarantor/mortgagor were returned un-served, this notice is now being published in the leading news papers after affixing a copy of the notice at conspicuous place of the working place/residences of the borrower(s) and the Guarantors/Mortgagors, Corporate Guarantor/Mortgagor as per the provisions of the said Act.

1. **Name & Address of the Borrower : M/s Bulls Eye Media Pvt. Ltd.,Regd. Office:** No.40, LGF, National Park Lajpat Nagar Part -IV,New Delhi – 110024, **Local Office:** No.615/A, 2nd Floor,10th Main 31st Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560011
Name and address of the Guarantors/Mortgagors: (1) Sri. Jeethmal Mutha, S/o Sri. Bhimraj, Director, **(2) Smt. Babli Devi,** W/o Sri. Bhimraj, Director, **(3) Sri. Mukesh Kumar,** S/o Sri. Bhimraj, Director,
All (1) to (3) are residing at: No.615/A, 10th Main Road, 31st Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560011 **(4) Smt. Vandana,** D/o Shri Bhimraj, (W/o Shri Naresh) No.538, Anantha Paradise, 10th Main, 32nd Cross, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru 560 011 **(5) Shri Anant Murlidhar Zade,** S/o Shri. Murlidhar Hari Babu Zade, Director, **(6) Smt. Archana Anant Zade,** W/o Shri Anant Zade, **All (5) & (6) are residing at:** No.102, "Dhruv Heights" Plot No. 186-187, Sector No. 10, Kharghar Navi – Mumbai 410 210 **(7) Corporate Guarantor: M/s Sidhachal Constructions and Developers Pvt Ltd,** Represented by its Managing Director Shri Bhimraj, No.20/2, Gowri Nilaya, 1st Cross, Jumma Masjid Road, Bengaluru – 560002
Date of Demand Notice: 04.07.2022
Outstanding Loan amount:Rs.9,39,70,592/- (Rupees Nine Crore Thirty Nine Lakh Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two Only) as on 30.06.2022 with interest from 01.07.2022+ incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Description of the Properties (Secured Assets)

(1) All that piece and parcel of Plot bearing No. Block G-1, presently bearing Khata No.204, at Hebbal Housing Industrial Area formed in Sy. Nos.100 & 101 of Hebbal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, measuring East to West 46.00 (Forty Six) Meters and North to South 44.00 (Forty Four) Meters standing in the name of M/s Shidhachala Constructions and Developers Pvt. Ltd., Represented by Managing Director, Shri Bhimraj, S/o Shri Mishrimalji, vide Sale Deed dated 10.04.2006 and Registered as Documents No.MYN-1-00780/2006-07 and CD No.MYND84 dated 10.04.2006 at SRO, Mysore (North) and bounded on: East by : Block – G (Part), West by : KIADB Road, North by : Block – G (Part), South by : KIADB Road.

(2) All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal Nos.31 & 31/1, PID Nos.60-116-31 & 31/1 (formerly being Site No.579) situated at 32nd 'D' Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560011 in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.60 (Pattabhiramanagar Ward), measuring East to West 42 feet and North to South 60 feet totally 2520 Sq. feet with Ground Floor Municipal No.31, PID No.60-116-31, having constructed area of about 1200 Sq. feet. and First and Second Floors, Municipal No.31/1, PID No.60-116-31/1, having constructed area of about 1700 Sq. feet standing the name of Shri Jeethmal Mutha, S/o Shri Bhimraj, vide Sale Deed dated 12.05.2014 and Registered as Document No.JAY-1-01016/2014-15 and CD No.JAYD197 dated 12.05.2014 at Sr. SRO, Jayanagar, Bengaluru and bounded on: East by : Property bearing No.578, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by: Property bearing No.559

(3) **SCHEDULE – 'A' PROPERTY : (Description of the entire property):** All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No.8 (formerly bearing No.615/A) situated at 10th 'C' Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.60 (Pattabhiramanagar Ward), Bangalore, measuring East to West (45'+55')/2 = 50 feet [on the Northern Side 45 feet and Southern Side: 55 feet] and North to South 40 feet totally 2000 Sq. feet and bounded on: East by : Road, West by: Burial Ground, North by : Site No.615/B, South by : Service Road.
SCHEDULE – 'B' PROPERTY : (Description of the property owned by the Donor-Smt. Babli Devi, W/o Sri. Bhimraj):
Residential apartment bearing internal No.302, bearing Municipal No.11/1-3 (PID No.60-105-11//1-3) situated on the western side of the second floor of the building built upon the Schedule – 'A' Property hereinabove measuring about 510 Sq. feet (47.43 Sq. mts) and bounded as under: East by : Apartment No.301, West by : Burial Ground, North by : Terrace Area/ Private Property, South by : Road.
Along with undivided right, title, interest and share to the extent of 300 Sq. feet in the sital area of the Schedule – 'A' Property along with the constructed portion measuring about 1490 Sq. feet upon the terrace area on the second floor and about 150 Sq. feet upon the terrace area on the third floor both of which have been put up by the Donor, in addition to all residual rights in the Schedule – 'A' Property which included the right to put up construction in the remaining terrace area on the third floor, to raise further floors and put up additional construction thereon with all easementary rights that have been conferred upon the Donor and jointly enjoyed by her in common with the other co-owners of the apartments in the Schedule 'A' Property.
SCHEDULE – 'C' PROPERTY : (Description of the property hereby gifted): Undivided right, title, interest and share to the extent of 200 Sq. feet in the sital area of the Schedule – 'A' Property along with the constructed portion measuring about 1490 Sq. feet upon the terrace area on the second floor and about 150 Sq. feet upon the terrace area on the third floor – both of which have been put up by the Donor, in addition to all residual rights in the Schedule – 'A' Property which includes the right to put up construction in the remaining terrace area on the third floor, raise further floors and put up additional construction thereon and included all easementary rights that have been conferred upon the Donor and jointly enjoyed by her in common with the other co-owners of the apartment in the Schedule – 'A' Property, standing in the joint names of Shri Jeethamal Mutha, S/o Shri Bhimraj and Shri Mukesh Kumar, S/o Shri Bhimraj, vide Gift Deed dated 06.07.2011 and Registered as Document No.JAY-1-00736/2011-12 and CD No.JAYD129 dated 06.07.2011 at Sr. SRO, Jayanagar, Bengaluru.

If the borrower(s)/guarantors/mortgagors and Corporate Guarantor/Mortgagor fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice/publication, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 and other applicable provisions of the SARFAESI Act. The borrower(s)/guarantors/mortgagors and Corporate Guarantor/Mortgagorare also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13 of the said Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining prior written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's rights to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable Provisions of Law.
The borrower/guarantors/mortgagors and Corporate Guarantor/Mortgagor attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.
The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of the Bank and is empowered to issue this notice and exercise powers under section 13 of the said Act.

Place :Bengaluru
Date : 21.07.2022

Authorised Officer& Chief Manager
SBI, Girinagar III Phase (16222), Bengaluru

Bescom scam: Two cheated of ₹2.3 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A bill payment scam continues to haunt consumers of the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom).

Sriram K.V., 56, a resident of Vidyaranyapura, lost ₹1.5 lakh to a man who approached him posing as a Bescom staffer and stole the money on July 17.

In his complaint, Mr. Sriram said that he had received a message from a person claiming to be from Bescom. The person sought an update on the bill payment. The message warned of disconnection of power supply if an update was not submitted.

Mr. Sriram contacted the person through a number mentioned in the message. The person, on the pretext of helping him make an online payment, asked Mr. Sriram to transfer ₹11 using a link that he shared.

Within a few minutes of the transaction, Mr. Sriram received a message about a transaction of ₹1.5 lakh from his bank account. Shocked, he tried to call the number, but it was not reachable.

Realising that he had been cheated, Mr. Sriram approached the North East Division Cyber Crime police on July 18.

According to sources, in the North East Division alone, there have been 10 such cases in one month.

Homemaker cheated

A similar complaint was filed by Rekha Nandakumar, a 53-year-old homemaker from Vasanthnagar, with the Central Division Cyber Crime Police on July 19.

Ms. Nandakumar, in her complaint, said that she received a message on her mobile phone from a person claiming to be from Bescom. The message warned of disconnection of the power supply if the bill was not paid online. The message mentioned a contact number for any assistance.

Ms. Nandakumar called the number. The person who answered claimed to be from Bescom. He told her to download a 'quick support app' to make a payment of ₹10. After she followed his instructions, she learnt that a sum of ₹79,115 had been deducted from two of her savings accounts.

Bescom has urged its consumers not to entertain any text regarding discontinuation of electricity supply owing to non-payment of bills. Such text messages are fake.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUNIRA** Abdul Majeed, r/at Majal Manzil, Bankara Manjeshwar Post, Kasaragod, Kerala-671323 have changed my name as Sunira Mohammed, vide affidavit dtd 21.07.22 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

I, **ABBOBACKER** Samah Jaal, S/o Abdul Majeed Jaal, r/at GF 04, Esteem Elegance, Gottigere Lake, Bannerghatta Road, Behind Redcliffe School, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name as Samah Jaal, vide affidavit dtd 20.07.22 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

I, **ABDUL** Majeed, r/at Majal Manzil, Bankara Manjeshwar Post, Kasaragod, Kerala-671323 have changed my name as Abdul Majeed Jaal, vide affidavit dtd 20.07.22 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

I, **Rakhunathan** M S/o.Mahadevan SK R/o:No:55, 12th Cross, Cqal Layout Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru-560092, changed my name to Raghunath M for all purposes.

I, **Riyanshi** Majumdar Rajesh D/o Rajesh V.R/o:E606 Purva Fountain Sq uare Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, changed my name to Riyanshi Rajesh for all purposes.

I, **AKASH** Ananda, S/o Anand.M, R/at No.9, 1st Cross, 3rd Main, AECS Layout, Opp. Rajmahal High School, RMV Extension, II Stage, Bengaluru-560094, have changed my name to Akash Anand vide affidavit dated 20-07-2022 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N. Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, CUDDALORE, TAMILNADU
MCOPNo.388 / 2021
R.Shagila W/o. Raguvaran & 3 Others
No.403-A, South Street,
Melpapanapattu,
Neyveli, Vridhachalam TK., Cuddalore Dt.
...Petitioners
-Vs-
South India Corpn.Pvt.Ltd.,
C/o.Chettinad Cements Corpn.Ltd.,
No.7 R C C 206 / 261 SG Mutt Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560018.
...1st Respondent
Notice to 1st Respondent
The Petitioners claimed compensation of Rs.1,00,00,000/- for the death of Raguvaran S/o.Ramalingam caused by your Ashok Leyland Lorry bearing Regn.No.KA-01-AE-3534 in a Motor Accident on 11.02.2021. The case is posted to 23.08.2022 for your appearance. You should appear in the Court in person or through Advocate on the above date at 10.00 am and file your objection else the case will be decided in your absence and you will be held liable for the consequences.
(Sd) R.SURESHKUMAR, B.A.,L.L.B.,
Advocate for the Petitioners
Cuddalore

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, CUDDALORE, TAMILNADU
MCOPNo.728 / 2021
A. Vinothini W/o Ajaikarthic
& 3 Others
No.3281, Aringar Anna Street,
N.G.O.Colony,
Nagamalai, Pudukottai, Madurai.
...Petitioners
-Vs-
South India Corpn.Pvt.Ltd.,
C/o.Chettinad Cements Corpn.Ltd.,
No.7 R C C 206 / 261 SG Mutt Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560018.
...1st Respondent
Notice to 1st Respondent
The Petitioners claimed compensation of Rs.2,00,00,000/- for the death of Ajaikarthic S/o.Jayabalan caused by your Ashok Leyland Lorry bearing Regn.No.KA-01-AE-3534 in a Motor Accident on 11.02.2021. The case is posted to 16.08.2022 for your appearance. You should appear in the Court in person or through Advocate on the above date at 10.00 am and file your objection else the case will be decided in your absence and you will be held liable for the consequences.
(Sd) R.SURESHKUMAR, B.A.,L.L.B.,
Advocate for the Petitioners
Cuddalore

LEGAL NOTICE

Proclamation Requiring Attendance Of Defendant (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
IN THE COURT OF
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH, JUDGE
Family Court, New Delhi District,
Patiala House, Delhi.
Case No. CS-04/21
ANUKRITI SRIVASTAVA
Versus
ABHISHEK SAXENA
To,
Second wife (Name not known) wife of Abhishek Saxena Both R/o Flat No. N-303, Ittina Mahavir Apartment Electronic City, Bangalore (Karnataka).
And also at Abhishek Saxena (Employee Code No. 32054889) MPHASIS Limited, Registered Office, Bagmane World Technology Centre, Marathalli Ring Road, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048.
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 08th Day of August, 2022 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard & determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 24th Day of May, 2022.
Sd/-
Judge
Family Court, New Delhi District,
Patiala House, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, our clients viz., **Mr. Ajay Kumar V Kale** had lost the original Sale Deed dated 26.02.2000, vide doc No. 12765/1999-2000 with respect to Residential Site No. 32, Grama Panchayath Khata No. 742 situated at Doddabidarkallu, Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore measuring 1200 Sq.ft during transit from Panchamuki Ganesha Temple Mahalakshmi layout at Bangalore.
Our clients have already lodged the Police Complaint on 29.09.2006 in the jurisdictional Police Station. Any person's having or claiming any manner of right, title & interest over the above said Property or on aforesaid mentioned original document may intimate the same in writing to the under signed along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within **7 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be presumed that the said Sale Deed is lost.
If any person holding the said original Sale deed may kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest.
Dated this 22nd day of July 2022 at Bangalore
M/S. LEGAL NEXUS, ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore-560 102
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Mr.GILROY AMALA KUMAR,** residing at No.44, 6th Cross, Hutchins Road Extension, St. Thomas town, Bangalore - 560084, has Lost the Original Sale Deed in respect of his Property No.681, 4th Main, ISRO Layout, Bangalore, described in the schedule of the document which has been registerd in his favour, as Document No.11123/2000-01, at Pages 1 to 8, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri. My client has lost the said document while renovating his house wherein he is residing. My Client has lodged a Lost report with the Pulakeshi Nagar Police Station On 11-07-2022 vide lost report No.0265362/22, in this regard.
Anyone who finds this document may contact the undersigned advocate.
SCHEDULE:
Property bearing No.681,4th main, ISRO Layout, Bangalore. Measuring East to West 15.244 meters, North to South : 9.146 meters, totally measuring: 139.43sq.mt bounded on East: 40 feet Road, West: Site No.704 & 705,North: Site No.682, South : Site No.680.
J.M.P LOBO, Advcate,
No.1, Dacosta Square, Wheeler Road Extension, Bangalore.
Cell No.99001 79569 / 98800 19922

A still from *RRR*.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Of macho men and invisible women

The masculinity crisis which continues to inform the Indian man seen on screen in 2022 has led to a reinforcement in stereotypes of the 'ideal woman'

SANJANA GANESH

THE GIST

- Popular films under the 'pan-Indian' category which have hit the screens in 2022 have given us a fair share of ferocious male leads. Most of them be it *KGF 2* or *Vikram* or *RRR* — all seem to be setting the standards of being the 'ideal man'.
- However, the women in these films are seen as mere extensions of the hero, deeply tied to him and his cause. They are waiting to be rescued and yearning to be acknowledged.
- There is evidence suggesting that the rise of the hypermasculine hero is closely linked to a crisis in economy. As 80% of the labour force is male, a crisis of jobs makes one look up to images of macho men saving both country and religion.

Popular films under the 'pan-Indian' category which have hit the screens in 2022 have given us a fair share of ferocious male leads. They all seem to be sporting beards, looking sharp and setting the standards of being 'ideal men' all the while working hard to save their countries, tribes and lands.

Fierce on-screen personas

Take for instance, Ram (Ram Charan Teja) and Bhim (Junior NTR) from S.S. Rajamouli's blockbuster *RRR*, who swing from bridges to save a young man stuck in a burning river. Meanwhile, in *Vikram*, Kamal Haasan teams up with his infant grandson to eradicate drug use in India. Rocky Bhai defends his territory on the Kolar Gold Fields – fighting several enemies and arguing with a sceptical government – in *KGF 2*. Vijay in *Beast* attempts to single-handedly take down terrorists who have highjacked a mall in Chennai, and *The Kashmir Files* has several men attempting to make sense of why the Hindus of Kashmir left the State – all the while fighting ruthlessly. These men seem to be in deep turmoil, constantly coming up with solutions to protect not just themselves and their families; they are larger-than-life and need to live in order for others to survive.

The women in these films are busy too. They are wearing themselves thin being the wives, mothers, love-interests, relatives or neighbours of these men on screen. They are waiting to be rescued, yearning to be acknowledged, to give birth and to sacrifice themselves for a cause that their men seem to have burdened them with, all the while looking flawless, kind and selfless. Some also seem to be fighting for themselves, wishing and praying that they do not get overshadowed by the lamps and chairs on screen. Are filmmakers finally gaining the momentum to put us in our place for our attempts at feminism?

Common threads

A number of common traits seem to define the men who have graced the Indian cinema halls this year, so much so that it feels like the same men are traversing storylines in different phases of their life. The depiction of these strong, patriarchal men on screen is not different from that of macho men over the years. The consistent portrayal this year however seems to have solidified the likelihood of seeing more such action heroes.

The protagonists of movies such as *KGF 2*, *Bheemla Nayak*, *Vikram*, *RRR*, *Samrat Prithviraj*, *Bachchan Pandey*, *Heropanti 2* and others are men who meet ideal male beauty standards. They have chiselled chests ready to withstand enemy blows and massive arms that are ready to send 10 bad men flying. They are also regularly armed with swanky weapons and insane intel that allows them to operate in stealthy ways. Even an infant in a movie like *Vikram* is burdened with the weight of surviving a gun battle against goons who run a massive criminal drug mafia. The characters seem strong willed, kind, resolute and phlegmatic, losing their temper only when a just cause demands their attention. They are also incredibly popular in their communities.

The films lose all chances of passing diversity assessments like the Bechdel test and the Sexy Lamp Test, set in place to appraise the diversity on screen

They usually worship their mothers and playfully engage with their love-interests, putting them down while making jokes and using them as props while fighting enemies. In films like *RRR* and *KGF: Chapter 2*, Sita and Shantamma are respectable women who not only take care of their families in the absence of the men , they also strive to provide strength and warm words of luck to their husbands and sons. They are willing to sacrifice themselves in the line of fire but would rather do so on command. In *Vikram* too, Agent Tina who seems to have fans wanting sequels, fights goons who threaten her commander's household with forks – kitchen instruments – rather than using guns which the men use in the film.

The women in these films lose their personhood as they are only extensions of the hero, deeply tied to him and his cause. The films themselves too lose all chances of passing diversity assessments like the Bechdel test and the Sexy Lamp Test, set in place to appraise the diversity on screen.

A crisis of masculinity

Economist and author of critically acclaimed book *Desperately Seeking Shah Rukh*, Shrayana Bhattacharya, says that she has noticed a shift in male representation, making them hypermasculine, post demonetisation. She says that it is also around the time that films like *Baahubali* and *Simba* started gaining popularity. "I call it the Thor-ification of men," she says. "Anytime the economy is unstable, men's jobs become unstable as 80% of the labour market is male. This is when they look to sublimate, by seeing men fighting the good fight for country and religion. This is a trend that is growing with time."

In a paper written titled 'Manifestations of Masculinity in Crisis: The Noir Films of Humphrey Bogart' by Jason Marzini for Rhode Island College, Marzini says that Bogart is often classified as the man's man of the 1920s. He says that Bogart's persona and various representations of masculinity remain iconic and have been replicated till date, informing contemporary notions of the ideal male. The researcher argues that films like those of Bogart gain momentum when there is a crisis of masculinity. He adds that his films have been used as 'vehicles of representation through which the unconscious anxieties of the American male during the wartime and post-war eras have been revealed as increasingly transgressive and desperate'.

The 'ideal woman'

This crisis which continues to inform the public of Indian men seen on screen in 2022 has inadvertently led to a reinforcement of stereotypes of the 'ideal woman': one who must take care of these macho men. The women are rarely given choices in these films and are forced to deal with the consequences of male clashes. They have no personalities of their own and can rarely be seen taking part in leisurely activities for themselves. Verbal and sexual abuse against them is normalised. Even the women who are applauded are recognised by their ability to handle situations like men.

Shrayana says that despite evidence suggesting that the rise of the 'Thor-ification' of men is due to an economic crisis, it is likely that the hypermasculine hero will remain on screen. She says that films like *Jayeshbhai Jordhar* which was also released in 2022 saw actor Ranveer Singh playing a 'beta male,' one who was not trying to be a saviour. "This film is really enjoyable but has not seemingly done well (collection-wise). This doesn't surprise me as gender-friendly scripts are going to to dominate a small bubble on OTT platforms only consumed by liberal women who have jobs and men who support them. Those too are a minority," she says. The rest will likely consume the strong-men trope.

It is undeniable that these strong-men films are entertaining. The gun battles, punchlines, jabs and gritty plot lines which showcase hard work behind the triumph of heroes over villains, somehow appeals to a primitive human instinct that just wants to win. The cost we pay ends up being the women who have been left behind.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Who is a 'chronic' patient, sir?"

"A chronic patient is a patient who is suffering from a 'lingering, lasting disease'. 'Chronic' is from the Greek word 'chronos' which means 'time'.

He is a chronic diabetic.

This means he has been a diabetic for a long time.

He is a chronic alcoholic.

The word is used in a similar way of other situations.

There has been a chronic shortage of cooking gas this year.

I don't know when our chronic unemployment problem will be solved.

A 'chronic shortage' is different from an 'acute shortage'. 'Acute' means 'severe but short duration'. 'Chronic' means 'long duration or frequent recurrence'. But in colloquial English, these days 'chronic' is used in the sense of 'bad, intense, severe',"

"What is a 'tip-off', sir?"

" 'Tip' has several meanings. One of them is 'private or special and useful information or advice'.

I got some tips from him for my interview tomorrow.

'Tip-off' is a hint or warning or secret information.

The police got a tip-off about the movement of the dacoits.

'To tip off' means to give a hint or warning or secret information.

The dacoits were tipped off that the police were coming to attack them.

They were tipped off that the house would be attacked at night.

He was tipped off about the raid."

"What's the difference between 'deal in' and 'deal with', sir?"

"*You deal in goods.*

He deals in electrical goods.

He deals in textiles.

This shop deals in stainless steel vessels.

'Deal with' means 'manage', 'treat'.

I don't know how to deal with him.

It is very difficult to deal with people who have a closed mind.

This book deals with Indian politics."

"Sir, what is the meaning of 'He is marching to the beat of a different drummer'?"

"If a man marching in a column is out of step, you say that he is marching to the beat of another drummer.

He is marching differently from others.

He stands out, he does not follow others. When a person follows his own course without worrying about conventions or public opinion, you use this expression. He may be a genius or he may be an eccentric. The expression is from Henry Thoreau's *Walden, or Life in the Woods*. 'If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away'."

"How do you pronounce 'exempt', sir?"

"It is pronounced 'igzempt'. The stress is on the second syllable 'zempt'. Well, let's call it a day."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

India's new President-elect Droupadi Murmu made history by being the first person with an Adivasi identity to occupy the Presidential post. Here's a quiz on other Adivasi achievers in independent India

1 A former India captain, this hockey player was known for his penalty corner conversion prowess besides being a stout defender. He went on to become a Rajya Sabha member and a Padma Shree winner (a first ever for a tribal citizen in India). Name him.

2 Born in Jari, Gumla district, this soldier won India's highest wartime gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra posthumously for his bravery in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 in the battle of Gangasagar (present day Bangladesh). Name him.

3 An environmentalist who had no formal education but made her mark by planting thousands of trees in her native State of Karnataka, went on to win the Padma Shri in 2021. Name her.

4 A Ramon Magsaysay awardee for public service, this person was the first from a northeastern State to become the Chief Election Commissioner of India. Name him .

5 A Sambhalpuri poet and writer who was awarded the Padma Shri for his achievements, this person, celebrated as Lok Kabhi Ratna, comes from humble origins and still follows an austere lifestyle. Name him.

Name this ace archer who equalled a world record at the Asian Archery Championships in 1992. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The site on the Moon where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed in July 1969. **Ans: Tranquility Base**

2. The launch of a Soviet satellite in 1957 led to a period of crisis (named after the satellite) in Western nations. **Ans: Sputnik Crisis**

3. The U.S. President who said this, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth." **Ans: President John F. Kennedy**

4. Pantone 185 and Pantone 286 are colours found in the logo of this space agency. **Ans: NASA**

5. The first American in space. **Ans: Alan Shepard**

6. The phrase made popular by Neil Armstrong when he told the NASA Mission Control Centre that they had reached the moon. **Ans: The eagle has landed**

7. The Toy Story character named in honour of Buzz Aldrin. **Ans: Buzz Lightyear**

Visual: The first American woman to fly in space. **Ans: Sally Ride**

Early Birds: Rupali Chaudhari| Varghese Joseph| Parminder Singh

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Monkeypox: Two beds each to be designated in all district hospitals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka is gearing up to accelerate surveillance after a second monkeypox case was confirmed in Kannur district of Kerala on July 18.

Following the reporting of a second confirmed case of monkeypox in Kannur district of Kerala on July 18, Karnataka is gearing up to accelerate surveillance activities.

In a circular issued on Thursday, following recommendations from the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), State Health Commissioner Randeep D. has asked all district hospitals to designate two beds each for isolation of suspected/confirmed cases.

Besides, the heads of all district hospitals have been asked to ensure adequate human resources and logistic support to manage such cases.

"All DHOs and district surgeons should ensure that screening teams at all points of entry into the State, disease surveillance teams, and doctors working in hospitals are re-oriented on the common signs and symptoms, diagnosis, case definitions etc. of suspected/probable/confirmed cases and contacts. They should also be trained on contact tracing and other surveillance activities that need to be undertaken," the circular stated.

While all suspected cases at points of entry and in the community should be screened and tested, through both hospital-based surveillance and targeted surveillance, a confirmed case should be isolated for at least 21 days and until all lesions have resolved and scabs have completely fallen off, the circular added.

Increase in people reporting post-COVID-19 brain disorders

Every year, July 22 is observed as World Brain Day

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

There has been a rise in people reporting post-COVID-19 brain disorders. City-based neurologists said they are noticing a spike in complications like Guillain-Barre syndrome, Bell's palsy, insomnia apart from behavioural and cognitive issues.

Every year, July 22 is observed as World Brain Day and the theme this year is "brain health for all".

Doctors said neurological complications affecting the brain are the second most common effect following COVID-19 infection, because the SARS-CoV-2 virus has the predilection to affect the lungs and the brain due to the presence of Ace2 receptors in both these areas. As a result the virus can affect the brain and the nervous tissues and cause a variety of complications.

N.K. Venkataramana, Founder-Chairman and Director of Neurosciences at Brains Super Speciality Hospital in Bengaluru, said inflammation in the brain during COVID-19 can persist for a variable amount of time, ranging from a few weeks to months, leading to a variety of post-COVID-19 complications. These include severe headaches, epilepsy or arterial strokes due to altered clotting mechanisms, and cerebral venous strokes due to altered immune mechanisms.

> **We are also seeing patients with peripheral neuropathy, Bell's palsy, and Guillain-Barre syndrome.**
>
> N.K. VENKATARAMANA,
> Founder-Chairman and Director of Neurosciences at Brains Super Speciality Hospital

"We are also seeing patients with peripheral neuropathy, Bell's palsy, and Guillain-Barre syndrome. In addition, pre-existing neurological conditions such as migraines, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and other autoimmune diseases can be aggravated," he said.

The doctor said nearly 30% of recovered patients develop vague symptoms like heaviness of head, inability to concentrate, lack of focus, disturbed sleep, and a lack of drive, all put together in a syndrome called brain fog.

"These patients require proper evaluation and symptomatic treatment, lifestyle modification which includes healthy diet, adequate sleep, moderate exercise, and avoidance of alcohol and smoking, and titration of pre-existing medications," he explained.

Suvarna Alladi, Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology at NIMHANS, said some recovered patients are turning up with symptoms of anxiety, depression, and memory loss. "This is apart from major issues such as stroke, epilepsy, and encephalopathy after an acute COVID-19 infection subsides. Sometimes they can have giddiness, weakness, fatigue, and delirium," she said.

Raghunandan Nadig, Professor of Neurology at St John's Medical College Hospital, said he has been seeing many patients with behavioural and mood disorders apart from cognitive issues.

"Nearly 25% of recovered patients are coming to us with insomnia, anxiety, and memory loss issues. Having been used to staying at home all through the two years of pandemic, some are developing adjustment issues. Most recover with proper counselling/ reassurance and do not require any medications," he said.

Guruprasad Hosurkar, consultant neurologist at Manipal Hospital (Yeshwanthpur), said elderly patients with chronic degenerative neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and dementia, admitted with COVID-19, took a long time to recover. In some patients, these conditions worsened post-COVID-19, he said.

"Because of the lockdown, there was a change in habits, decreased social interaction, poor physical activity, reduced access to existing medications, fear of illness, loss of near and dear ones. As a result, even now we see patients with tension-type headaches, insomnia, anxiety neurosis and depression, apart from neuropathy and stroke," he added.

Brain health clinic to be launched in city today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As part of Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-Bhi), the Health Department, in association with NIMHANS, will launch a brain health clinic at Jayanagar General Hospital on Friday.

Ka-Bhi, designed to develop a model for prevention and management of neurological diseases and promote brain health from the grassroot level of primary care to tertiary care, is being initiated on a pilot basis in Bengaluru South, Chickballapur, and Kolar. The government has appointed cricketer Robin Uthappa as he brand ambassador.

HC allows withdrawal of bail petition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday dismissed as withdrawn a bail petition, in which a single-judge Bench had recently made several adverse remarks on the functioning of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and its head.

The petition was withdrawn by counsel for Mahesh P.S., a deputy tahsildar attached to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban, and an accused in the alleged bribery case, as a trial court has granted default bail to Mr. Mahesh, as the ACB could not submit the final investigation report within the stipulated period of 60 days.

When the petition came up for hearing before Justice H.P Sandesh, counsel for Mr. Mahesh sought the court's permission to withdraw the petition, as it did not survive for further consideration before the high court in view of the default bail.

Mr. Mahesh is accused of demanding a bribe of ₹5 lakh from a landowner on the behalf of J. Manjunath, an IAS officer and then DC, Bengaluru Urban. Mr. Manjunath was arraigned as an accused and arrested, only after the high court had questioned why the DC was not made as an accused in the case.

Justice Sandesh, during earlier hearings on the petition, had disclosed that he had received a 'threat' and had also summoned the service records of ACB's head, Additional Director-General of Police Seemant Kumar Singh, besides noting down adverse remarks made against him in his service records.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court, on July 18, stayed the proceedings, which are not linked to the pleadings of the accused deputy tahsildar seeking bail.

The SC passed the interim order in separate appeals filed by the ACB, Mr. Singh, and Mr. Manjunath questioning the HC's adverse remarks against them. The Supreme Court *prima facie* found that the HC's observations were "either irrelevant or detrimental to the fair trial of the accused".

However, the SC had permitted the judge of the HC to decide the bail petition expeditiously, while declining the plea of appellants to shift the hearing of the petition before another judge.

LLB student killed in road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old cab driver was killed on the spot when he lost control over his vehicle, and it jumped the median, before colliding with a KSRTC bus on Airport Road early on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Lohith Prasad, a native of Magadi in Ramanagaram district. He was pursuing his final year of LLB at V.V. Puram College in the day and working as a cab driver at night.

According to the police, Mr. Prasad was heading to pick up passengers at the airport around 3.15 a.m. when he lost control over the vehicle at BSF Camp Junction.

The car was completely damaged and Mr. Prasad was killed on the spot.

The Yelahanka Traffic Police cleared the accident spot to allow traffic movement. The police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving.

40 quintals of PDS rice seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Food Inspector of the North Division seized a truck transporting 40 quintals of PDS rice in Sanjaynagar on Wednesday, which was meant to be distributed for the Anna Bhagya scheme.

The officer, Nagaraj S., while on his rounds, noticed a mini-truck carrying rice bags heading to the city from the Ballari service road. He tried to stop the vehicle, but it sped away only to be found abandoned near Fisheries the Department.

Upon verification, 80 sacks of rice of 50 kg each, worth ₹1.2 lakh, were found. Mr. Nagaraj handed over the truck to the Sanjaynagar police.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1&2/e-Tender/2022-23/1552 Dated: 14.07.2022

Short Term e-Tender Notification

(1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTTP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document **KW-4** Karnataka Public Works Department invites item Rate Tender by **Two Cover** System Through e-Procurement Portal from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works pertaining to Yadgir Taluka-**04** & Shahapur Taluka-**04** Nos. Total **08** Nos of works. Under **5054 SH & MDR (Appendix-E)** the Work Indent No's are as follows, **(1)154145, (2)153312, (3)153885, (4)152435, (5)152702, (6)152466, (7)154063 and (8)154148.** **(2)** Estimate Cost: Minimum Rs **300.00** Lakhs and Maximum Rs.**999.90** Lakhs. **(3)** Contractor Eligible Details: **Class-2nd & Above (As per rule). (4)** Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details: Tender Fee as per e-proc and EMD Minimum Rs **3,97,700.00** and Maximum Rs.**13,15,500.00**. **(5)** Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting: **21.07.2022 (11.30 hrs). (6)** Date & Time for receipt of queries: **25.07.2022 (17.30 hrs). (7)** Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal: **30.07.2022 (16.00 hrs). (8)** Date & Time of Opening of the Technical Bid: **01.08.2022 (11.30 hrs). (9)** Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid: **05.08.2022 (11.30 hrs). (10)** For More Details Contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division: Yadgir. **(1)** Website Address: **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir

DIP/Yadgiri/162/MC&A/2022-23

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC Division, No.1, Kembhavi Tq.: Shorapur Dt. Yadgiri Phone:08443-278674, e-mail:ee_ibcdiv1kembhavi@yahoo.com
Corporate Identity Number: "L85320KA1994SGC016101"

No.KBJNL/IBC/D-1/PB-1/Tender/2022-23/241 Date: 12.07.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2

(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)

Ref: (1) This office tender notification: KBJNL/IBC/D-1/PB/2021-22/1006 Dated:31.12.2021 **(2)** This office corrigendum no.1: KBJNL/IBC/D-1/PB/2021-22/1065 Dated:08.02.2022

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC Divn No.1 Kembhavi, the under signed invites tenders on Construction of road to hill top colony from Hunagunda state highway to Division office at Kembhavi, (I.N.21535) percentage basis from a vaild Copy of registration certificate as class-I and above contractors registered in KPWD. **Amounting to Rs.67.99 lakhs.** EMD: **1.36 Lakhs.** The tenderers are required to submit tenders in two cover system (The blank tenders can be obtained through website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and can be submitted through electronic tender box). **(1)** The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from 16.07.2022 to 16.08.2022 in the website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal (2)** Last date for Submission of completed e-tendering documents will be **16.08.2022 up to 4.30PM (3)** Cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, IBC Division No.1 Kembhavi on **18.08.2022 at 11.00 AM** in respect of bidders whose e-tendering fee has been confirmed on the e-tendering platform. **(4)** Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL IBC Division No.1 Kembhavi on **20.08.2022 at 11.00 AM** after approval of technical bid. **(5)** If any of the dates mentioned above happened to be a general holiday, the next working day holds good. **(6)** Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC Division-1, Kembhavi-585 216

DIP/Yadgiri/160/MC&A/2022-23

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. MYS-COMML-32-SWEETSTALL Dated: 20.07.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites tender for award of license to install and operate Sweet Stall at Mysuru Railway Station on Mysuru Division for a period of five years.

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 12:00 hrs. of 26.08.2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mysuru

PUBG/46/KA/PR/B/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

IN THE COURT OF THE VI ADDITIONAL FAMILY JUDGE AT BANGALORE

G & WC. No. 31/2020

BETWEEN

Sri Dilip Haridas
S/o Late K.Haridas,
Aged about 42 years, R/o No.3,
Kamal Nivas, 4th Cross,
Nanjappa Garden, Babusapalya,
Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043
...Petitioner

and

Smt. Rekha Adiyeri,
W/o Sri Dilip Haridas,
D/o A.N.Valsaraj, aged about 42 years,
R/o Flat No. 401, Kaveri Apartments,
No.432, 3rd Cross, Hennur Main
Road, Narayanapura Cross,
Bangalore-560077
....Respondent

Notice to the Respondent by way of Paper Publication

To,

Smt. Rekha Adiyeri,
W/o Sri Dilip Haridas,
D/o A.N.Valsaraj, aged about 42 years,
R/o Flat No. 401, Kaveri Apartments,
No.432, 3rd Cross, Hennur Main
Road, Narayanapura Cross,
Bangalore-560077

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition against the Respondent seeking for the custody of minor child U/s 7 R/w Section 25 of Guardian and Wards Act. 1955

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble VI Additional Family Judge at Bengaluru in person or by an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this petition on **22-08-2022 at 11-00 A.M.**

Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day of **22nd August 2022**, the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court this 18th day of June 2022.

By Order of the Court,
Sd/- Sheristedar,
Family Court, Bengaluru.

Address of the Advocate
R. Shailesh Kumar
M/s. SUSHEEL ASSOCIATES,
Law Firm
F-1, 1st Floor, 'Harshita Arcade',
No.138, 1st Main, Sheshadripuram,
Bengaluru-20 Mobile : 9845009771

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporation Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC33813
website : www.pspcl.in (Contact 9646118773)

Tender Enquiry No.: Q-4007/22-23/PO-T/CE-MM

Chief Purchase Officer / MM Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites short term E-tender of 59 Nos., ISI Marked EEL-2/Star-2. Three Phase, 500 KVA, oil immersed, CRGO/Amorphous core, Copper wound distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specification & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in form 22.07.2022 onwards.**

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 282/22 76155/12/1010/2021/15822

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT 12648 Date: 15.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender invited through e-procurement portal from agencies for the work of **Supply, Installation and commissioning of Air Conditioners & Water coolers with accessories for different locations of RTPS-ARC basis,** from reputed firms/ organisations/ contractors. Last date for receipt of tenders: **30.07.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** All relevant details are available in the e-portal: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (LT)-1,** KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94495 96537. E-mail: eelt1rtpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in ; eelt1rtps@gmail.com

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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ
(ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)

ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ
[illegible]
[illegible] ನಂ-40
e-mail: childdevelopmentprojectcentral@gmail.com Phone No.: 23204490

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: [illegible]/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20/07/2022

ಇ- ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(Notice Inviting Tender through e-procurement)

ವಿಷಯ: 2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ [illegible] ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 351 ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಳಿ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	351 ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಳಿ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್	ದಿ.20-08-2022 ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	1,20,00,000/-

ಆಸಕ್ತರು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನೋಡಬಹುದು & ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-23204490 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ

DIPR/CP/1460/GREENFMC/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/2269 DATE: 20/07/2022

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 2 works under head of account 8443-Deposite Contribution, 1 work under head of account 5054-SH Improvements & 1 work under head of account 5054-TSP, Total 4 works, Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 14.47 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 168.08 Lakhs.

Calendar of events: 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 25-07-2022 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 26-07-2022 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 28-07-2022 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Single Cover System): 30-07-2022 at 4.30 PM,5)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 30-07-2022 at 4.30 PM, 6)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-591/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby informed that, our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner Mr. Tata Shivaprasad S/o Late Krishnaiah, aged about 51 years R/at: No. 4, 6th Cross, Opp-ING Vysya Bank, Devasandra, KR Pura Post, Bangalore-36. It has been represented that the SCHEDULE PROPERTY has been purchased by him from Sri S. Ramesh, Smt. H. Shobha, Kum R Ramya and Kum R. Yashaswini, represented by their Power of Attorney holder Sri Tata Shivaprasad vide sale deed dated : 15.10.2020 registered as document No: BDH-1-01700/20-21, CD No.BDHD 635 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bangalore. It has been represented by him that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, claims, inheritance, agreements, MOU, litigations, acquisitions, etc., and he is in peaceful enjoyment and possession of the Schedule Property and none else has got any right, title, interest or claim in the schedule property. Any person/s, whomsoever having any right, title, interest, demand or claim in the schedule property or any part thereof are hereby requested to intimate to the undersigned in writing supported with the documentary proof within 8 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which it shall be presumed that, there are no claims on the Schedule Property or claims if any are given up and waived and the objections / claims received thereafter shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed and complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing vacant site No.27, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Layout, formed in converted land Sy.No.52 vide Official Memorandum No.ALNSR78/1986-87 dated : 31.01.1987 situated at Nimbekaypura Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 55ft 7 inches, North to South 30ft totally measuring 1667.4 sq.ft and bounded on;
East by: 30 Feet Road **West by:** Site No 40 **North by:** Site No 28 **South by:** Site No 26

RAJARAM HEGDE, Advocate and Legal Consultant
No. 20/16-1, "NityaShree", 32nd Cross, Behind BWSSB Office, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore-560078. Ph:080-26666345, 9141125249 **E-mail :** rajaram.hegde30@gmail.com

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ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಸರ್ ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕಂಬಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 2213898,
2213888 website : www.hdmc.gov.in

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಫೋ:-(0836)2213838 Email : eedharwad@gmail.com

ನಂ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿಎಂಸಿ/67/07/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21-07-2022

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಸನ್ 2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ PWD/CPWD/HDMC/ ಇತರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು** ಇ.ಕಂ : (1) 131681(ST) (2) 131586(SC) (3) 132539 (SC) (4) 131562 (Gen) (5) 132537(Gen) (6) 132538 (Gen) (7) 132535(Gen) (8) 128764(Gen) (9) 133539(Gen) ಒಟ್ಟು **09** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **81.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **22/07/2022** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ **0836-2213838** ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **29/07/2022** ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
(2) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30/07/2022** ವೇಳೆ 05.35 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾವಾಇಧಾ/ಧಾ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/383/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division,
2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagara Main Road,
Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-32

No: EE/HBL/TEND/21/2022-23 Date: 18.07.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
(STANDARD TENDER DOCUMENT KW - 1 / 2)

Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Category	Estimate Cost in (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD in Thousands
1.	Reconstruction of Damaged Culverts in **Ward No.20** Ganganagara (General)	**5.00**	**12500.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded from **21.07.2022** at **4:00** pm onwards. (2) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **29.07.2022** upto **4:00 pm.** (3) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals is **30.07.2022** after **4:30** pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-Hebbala Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸವದತ್ತಿ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08330-295150 E-mail:cdposaundatti@yahoo.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಶಿಅಯೋಸ:ಮಮಅಇ:ಐಸಿಡಿಎಸ್:ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ:ಟೆಂಡರ್:2022-23 ದಿ:20/07/2022

: ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :

2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ,ಸವದತ್ತಿ ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ 343 ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಳಿ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:DWCD:2022-23:IND:1798 ದಿ:19/07/2022 ರಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವಿಳಾಸ WWW.eproc.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18/08/2022 ರ ಸಂಜೆ:5.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸವದತ್ತಿ ಇವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08334-295150 ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ-9591123941.

ಸಹಿ/-ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಸವದತ್ತಿ

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-584/MCA/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:-cdposht@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಶಿಅಯೊಶಿ/ಕೋ.ಮೊ.ಸಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.07.2022

E-Procurement Tender Announcement
(Notice inviting Tender through E-Procurement)

231 Anganwadis under Shirahatti Child Development Scheme for the year 2022-23 The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 are called upon from the tenderers willing to supply chicken eggs to the beneficiaries of the Centres, subject to the following provisions. For more details visit **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** website. **Tender No:CDPO/SHIRAHATTI/EGG TENDER/2022-23/01 DATE:19.07.2022**

1. Tender Publication Date: **19.07.2022, 2.** Last date for online submission of tenders filled through e-procurement: **19.08.2022, 3.** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **21.08.2022 11.30 AM, 4.** Date of opening of Financial Bid: **30.08.2022 11.30 AM, 5.** Place of tender opening: Child Development Officers Shirhatti.

ಸಹಿ/- ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ

DIPR/GADAG/201/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08333-265099 E-mail:cdpohukkeri1@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಶಿಅಯೋಹು:ಮಮಅಇ:ಐಸಿಡಿಎಸ್:ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ:ಟೆಂಡರ್:2022-23 ದಿ:19/07/2022

: ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :

2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ 472 ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಳಿ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:DWCD:2022-23:IND:1829 ದಿ:19/07/2022 ರಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವಿಳಾಸ WWW.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18/08/2022 ರ ಸಂಜೆ:5.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ ಇವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08333-265099 ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ-8792261560

ಸಹಿ/-ಶಿಶು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-587/MCA/2022-23

WOMEN & CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Child Development Project Office, Biligere
Mini Vidhana Soudha, No.50, Devirammana Halli Circle,
Nanjangudu-571301. Ph:08221-297171, Email:cdpobiligere@gmail.com

No.ಶಿಅಯೋ.ಬಿಳಿಗೆರೆ.ಕೋ.ಮೊ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ:2022-23/99 **Date:20.07.2022**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Child Development project Office, Women And Child Welfare Department, Mysuru invites Tender from interested agencies for the following service.

Name of the Service: Providing Eggs with transportation for Anganawadi Beneficiaries of Child Development project office, Biligere Project, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District.

Amount Put to Tender: 72,92,880/-, EMD: 1,45,857/-.

Last date & time for receipt of tender is **17.08.2022 upto 5:00 pm.** Further details can be obtained by logging into e-portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **19.07.2022 at 5.30 pm onwards.**

Any Quiries or Clarifications Contact CDPO office Biligere, Mini Vidhana Soudha, R.No.50, Nanjangudu.

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer,
Biligere

DIPR/MYS/NA/ITA/271/2022-23

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING

(Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023) (Telephone No. 080-29557023
E-mail: cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EWICE/TA-2&3/AE-1,2&5/TND/NHM-IPHL Labs/2022-23/985 Date: 20-07-2022

Short Term Tender Notification

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-III & above contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in e-procurement for the following works.

Description of work: Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of Haveri District Hospital at Haveri. **Estimated cost :** Rs.100.00 lakhs. **EMD :** 2.00 lakhs. **Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon) :** 6 Months.

Description of work: Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory in the premises of Vijayapura District Hospital at Vijayapura. **Estimated cost :** Rs.100.00 lakhs. **EMD :** 2.00 lakhs. **Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon) :** 6 Months.

Description of work: Construction of District Integrated Public Health Laboratory at Doddaballapur MCH Hospital in Bengaluru Rural District. **Estimated cost :** Rs.100.00 lakhs. **EMD :** 2.00 lakhs. **Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon) :** 6 Months.

Calendar of Events: 1) Last date for receipt of tenders : 01.08.2022 upto 16.00 hrs. 2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 03.08.2022 at 16.00 hrs.

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/ contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
HFWD, Engineering Wing,
Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Mode Only)

No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-130/22-23/4023-25 Date: 21.07.2022

KPTCL invites bids for the following works: **1) Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(M)/ BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/2021-22/EPR-18/ CALL-06 Dated 21.07.2022** for the work of replacement of deteriorated tower type DA+0 at 66KV Tower No.71 in the existing 66/11KV DG3-DG4 DC line from existing 66/11KV Manyatha Tech Park S/s., to existing 66/11KV Hoskote S/s near Hirandahali lake limits, Bangalore rural.

No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-130/22-23/4030-32 Date: 21.07.2022

2) Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(M)/ BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/ 2021-22/EPR-10/CALL-08 Dtd: 21.07.2022 in **combined** for the following works:

1. Replacement of damaged, deteriorated conductor of 220KV Somanahalli-Yarandanahalli and 220kV Somanahalli-Subramanyapura line at Kulumepalya in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bangalore.
2. Providing Intermediate Tower to increase the vertical clearance of the existing 220kV Hoody-BIAL S/C line between Tower No. 44 and 45 near Yarappanahalli Village Kadagrahara limits, TLM Hoody on Total turnkey basis.
3. Estimate for providing Double string Insulator in 220kV Tatguni - Vrushabavathi line passing Pipeline & Nice road near Ayurvedic Hospital which is identified as hazordous location, in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bangalore.
4. Estimate for providing Double string Insulator in 220kV Khodays-Subramanyapura & 220kV Subramanyapura-Peenya lines(DC) are passing Pipeline at Gubbalala which is identified as hazordous location, in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bangalore.
5. Increasing the vertical clearance of existing 220kV Somanahalli-HSR and Somanahalli-Naganthapura line at Basavanapura, near Abhaya Laksmi Narasimha temple by erecting new 220kV DB+6 NRS-Laggere design type tower by replacing the existing 220kV DC A type tower in the jurisdiction of TLM Somanahalli.
6. Increasing the vertical clearance of existing 220kV Somanahalli-HSR and Somanahalli-Naganthapura line at Begur to koppa road near Mylasandra dinne, by erecting new 'DA+9' 220 DC 'A' Tower Gadag- Bagalakote design type tower by replacing existing ' DA+0' type tower, in the jurisdiction of TLM Subdivision Somanahalli.

The Bids will be received through 'E' Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.07.2022.**

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle,
KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICE, CHADACHAN

Publication of E-Procurement Tender

Tender have been invited through E-Procurement to buy and distribute eggs to children for the age group of 6 months to 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers under the Mathrupurna Scheme in 148 Anganawadi Centers under the Chadachan Child Development Project for the year 2022-2023. Tender Website number will be www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The estimated value of the tender is Rs. 1,59,79,752/- and tender EMD Amount of Rs. 2,39,696/-

TENDER SCHEDULE

1) Tender Reference No.: No. WCD/ICDS/EGG/1/2021/E-597342 Dated. 24.06.2022

2. Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from e-Procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in: From 19.07.2022

3. Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting: 02.08.2022 at 11:00 AM at the following venue: Office of the Child Development Project Officer, Chadachan. Department of Women and Child Development, Vijayapur. Address: Patil Nagar, Teachers Co-operative Society, Taluk: Chadachan, District: Vijayapur, State: Karnataka, Pincode: 586205

4. Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement Portal:11.08.2022 up to 05:00 PM

5. Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender in e-Procurement portal:18.08.2022 up to 5:00 PM

6. Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: 22.08.2022, 10:30 AM

7. Date and Time of opening of Financial Bids: 25.08.2022, 12:00 PM

8. Place of opening of Tenders: Child Development Project Officer, Chadachan, e-Procurement Portal

9. Address for Communication: Office of the Child Development Project Officer, Chadachan. Department of Women and Child Development, Vijayapur. Address: Patil Nagar, Teachers Co-operative Society, Taluk: Chadachan, District: Vijayapur, State: Karnataka, Pincode: 586205 Phone: +919113816391 STD Code: 08422 landline number:278071 Email: cdpocdn2014@gmail.com

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer,Chadachan

[illegible]/297/[illegible]/2022-23

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 22
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49
RISE 00:50 SET 13:44

SATURDAY, JUL. 23
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49
RISE 01:31 SET 14:34

SUNDAY, JUL. 24
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49
RISE 02:14 SET 15:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderaterain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower is likely.

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Panel recommends 33% quota for OBCs in ULB polls

Report says cap on reservation should stay at 50%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A commission headed by K. Bhakthavatsala, former judge of the Karnataka High Court, to study suitable political representation for other backward classes (OBCs) in urban local body (ULB) elections on Thursday submitted a report to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and recommended reservation of 33% of the total seats in favour of OBCs (including minorities) in ULB elections.

However, it suggested that the aggregate of reservation of seats in favour of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs should not exceed 50% of the total seats.

The commission suggested bringing all ULB election wings under the control of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

The commission has been constituted following a Supreme Court instruction in a case related to ensuring suitable representation for backward classes in panchayat raj institutions and ULBs. The issue was discussed at the all-party meetings held on March 23 and 31 and it was decided to hold the elections to these institutions only after making provision for reservation for these communities.

Noting that 44.4% of total population in Karnataka belonged to OBCs (including minorities), the commission said: "The State in its wisdom and authority", had adopted the castes listed as OBCs for the purpose of education and employment, for purpose of political reservation on the ground that they are socially and politically backward in the State.

Key recommendations

- Reserve 33% seats for OBCs, including minorities, in ULB elections
- Ensure aggregate of all reservation of seats does not exceed 50%
- Bring all ULB election wings under the control of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms
- Make term of office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor 30 months in all city corporations like in BBMP
- Provide OBC reservation for office Mayor and the Deputy Mayor in BBMP

The commission, therefore, said reservation of 33% of the total seats, in favour of OBCs in ULB elections was based on OBC population and empirical data.

"Hence, we hold that the reservation of 33% of the total seats in the local body elections in the State in favour of OBCs is justifiable," the commission said.

It said persons belonging to the minority community other than the Muslim community were not able to avail themselves of the benefit of political reservation in local body elections. For the purpose of reservation of seats in education and employment, only Muslim community had been listed in "Backward Classes" Category-A.

The empirical data revealed that the Muslim community had been given representation in the local body elections held in 1996, 2001, 2010, and 2015, it said.

It recommended amendment to Section 10 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (KMC) Act, 1976, regarding the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 30 months in all city corporations as provided in the case of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of BBMP under the BBMP Act, 2020.

It recommended amendment to Section 10 of the KMC Act, 1976.

"As per Section 57 of the BBMP Act, 2020, the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is 30 months, from the date of election. But, according to Section 10 of the KMC Act, 1976, the term of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is 12 months. Therefore, Section 10 of the KMC Act requires it to be amended," it said.

The commission recommended reservation of office of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor in BBMP in favour of persons belonging to OBCs.

The commission said that the Section 10 of the KMC Act, 1976, provided reservation for the persons belonging to the OBCs falling under the Category-A and B, to the extent of one-third of the total number of offices of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, in the State. "But, Section 58 of the BBMP Act, relating to reservation of seats, in favour of OBCs, to the office of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor is silent," it said.

An anomaly

The commission noted another interesting fact that the definition of the backward classes of BBMP Act does not refer to Category-A and B of OBCs, as notified by the Urban Development Department. But, in the provision 1, 2 and 3 of sub-section 3 of Section 8 of BBMP Act, makes a reference about backward classes Category-A and B.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 22, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- **In the limelight |** Of macho men and invisible women
  bit.ly/cinemawomen
- **Explained |** How is Kerala fighting monkeypox?
  bit.ly/monkeypoxkerala

Online exclusives

- **In Focus podcast |** What does Ranil Wickremesinghe's election as President mean for Sri Lanka?
  bit.ly/ranilpodlanka
- **Data |** Taj Mahal is India's top-grossing monument, despite rapid decline in foreign tourists
  bit.ly/datatajmahal
- **Watch |** This Kerala farmer grows over 400 varieties of bananas
  bit.ly/bananavid
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Space expo

(Clockwise from top) A boy looking at the crew and service modules; an inside view of the crew module display; S. Somanath, ISRO Chairman, and Umamaheshwaran R., scientific secretary, looking at the GSLV MKIII launch vehicle, and one of the stalls at the human space flight expo. It was organised a part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium by the Human Space Flight Centre, ISRO, in Bengaluru on Thursday. • BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Free electricity to IP sets owned by small, medium coffee planters

It will be applicable for pump sets up to 10 hp from July 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a major relief to small and medium coffee planters, the State government on Thursday issued an order to provide free electricity for pump sets up to 10 hp.

The free power supply scheme will come into effect from July 1, 2022.

The free power supply scheme will come into effect from July 1, 2022.

The order said planters had to pay the electricity bill first and the amount would later be credited to their bank accounts through direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme. But it would be applicable only to consumption of energy by 10 hp irrigation pump sets owned by planters. For reimbursement of bills, planters have to produce certified letters from the Energy Department, Aadhaar card, bank account, and other details. Electricity bills would be reimbursed based on the charges fixed by the Karnataka Regulatory Electricity Commission for consumption of electricity.

The amount would be reimbursed to planters after deducting tax amount in the bill. Planters have to pay their electricity bills on time to the Escoms concerned on time, the order said.

Till now, the government has been giving free power to farmers' irrigation pumps sets up to 10 hp, which included mandatory installation of meters to quantify power consumption.

During the legislature session in March last, members belonging to the coffee belt in Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu demanded free power to pumpsets. Coffee growers were not rich and many small growers were not able to pay the electricity bills, said MLAs of the region.

FROM PAGE 1

Digital passes generate ₹2.5 crore in July

The BMTC sells around 15 lakh passes in a month, out of which, 50,000 passes have been bought digitally in July. The revenue from the app saw more than a ten fold increase between April and July as it went up from 21 lakh to 2.5 crore, according to Rajesh S., Chief Traffic Manager, BMTC. "Within just 20 days of this month, we have seen good numbers. We are expecting it to increase more than 10% this month", he said.

He added that while the public response to the app is very good, bus conductors are also happy with the app. "We have given them QR codes and they are also put up in all buses," Mr. Rajesh said.

"The only problem is that when the bus is crowded, it gets difficult for passengers to scan the QR code. Otherwise, it has made the job easier," said a conductor on the Hebbal to Shivajinagar route.

THE HINDU
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Bengaluru firm develops nanoemulsion intra-nasal platform and gets patent

The platform presently is best suited to treat various brain-related disorders

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

City-based Synergia Biosciences unveiled a nanotechnology-based intra-nasal platform of medicine for brain-related disorders on Thursday.

It has acquired patents for the same in the United States of America, the European Union, India, and Japan.

Synergia Biosciences said they have developed the platform in which lipophilic drugs can be dissolved for the intra-nasal spray mode of administering to patient.

"We have patented the composition of the platform and the process to arrive at that," Sambratha Shetty, Chief Operating Officer, Synergia Biosciences said.

The nanoemulsion platform presently is best suited to treat various brain-related disorders from cluster headaches, migraine, schizophrenia, dementia, epilepsy, Alzheimer's and vertigo, binge drinking, depression, among others.

"One of the biggest challenges in drugs treating brain-related disorders is that it is very difficult to make the drug reach the target area. But with the intra-nasal route, it bypasses the first pass metabolism, increases bioavailability of the drug, and causes rapid absorption (less than 5 minutes)," Ms. Shetty explained.

Synergia has stabilised the nanoemulsion for four drugs: two antipsychotic ones, an analgesic, and an antiemetic. The same platform can be tweaked to carry vaccines and insulin, Synergia claimed. "It is an affordable way to treat multiple diseases. This is a strategic technology which will help India treat multiple diseases at an affordable cost," said Tobby Simon of Synergia Foundation.

State reports 1,552 new cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday recorded 1,552 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,91,609.

With this the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 4.60% and the weekly TPR touched 4.62%.

Of the new cases, 1,285 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With one death, the State's toll remained 40,090. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 1,384 persons were discharged on Thursday.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CN/04/2022 Dated: 20.07.2022
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender closing Time: 14:00 Hrs.**

Sl	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
1	962253068	Route LED signal lighting unit as per RDSO specn. No. RDSO/SPN/153/2011 REV. 4.1 or latest. Qty: 435 Nos.	10.08.2022
2	962253054	Shunt LED signal unit as per RDSO specn. No. RDSO/SPN/153/2011 REV. 4.1 or latest. Qty: 489 Nos.	10.08.2022

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Materials Manager / Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/249/AA/IPRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways swr_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Reg Autonous Institute)
Phone : 08272-220606 Website : www.kimskodagu.kar.nic.in
Ref:No. ME/2022-23/IND: Date:20.07.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal GOK, for the supply of Furnitures **(Chairs, Tables & Cots) & Book Racks, Journal Racks.** The applications can be down loaded from **21.07.2022,** last date for up load is **20.08.2022,** for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.
e-mail: directormckodagu@gmail.com
Sd/- Dean & Director
KOIMS, Madikeri - 571201

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, BBMP Head Office, Annex-3, Building, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.
No: EE/RI/RRN/PR/56/2022-23 Date: 21-07-2022
CORRIGENDUM-1
Sub: Extension of Time for Tender
Ref: 1) This office Tender Notification No: **EE/RI-RRN/TEND/03/2022-23 Dated: 13-07-2022.**
2) This office Tender Notification No: **EE/RI-RRN/TEND/03/2022-23, Dated: 13-07-2022, CORRIGENDUM, Dated: 21-07-2022.**
With reference to the above subject and reference, **Due to Technical Reasons** the Date for Submission of Tender is extended as below. .
Calender of Events: 1) Downloading of Tender Document: **21-07-2022. 2)** Last Date of Submitting of Tender: **29-07-2022. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **01-08-2022.** All other terms and conditions remain same.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Rajarajeshwarinagar Division, BBMP.
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Two boys with cancer get to become DCP for a day

It was part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's initiative to fulfil the wishes of the two boys

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

It was a special Thursday at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, South-East Division, when 13-year-olds, Mithilesh and Mohammed Salman Khan, clad in the police uniform, walked into the office and received salutes from the staff, followed by an introduction.

The two children walked into the office and sat there for some time, before getting a briefing about developments in the area from the officials.

The event was part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's initiative to fulfil the wishes of the two boys, who are studying in high school in Bengaluru and getting treatment for cancer.

"As part of the initiative, the boys, who wished to be IPS officers, played the DCP of the South-East Division at the Koramangala office," C.K. Baba, DCP, South-East Division, said.

As part of the programme, Salman and Mithilesh got a briefing about the activities and exercises, and even visited the police station as part of the DCP's routine work.

Innocent dreams: Mithilesh and Mohammed Salman Khan got to be the DCP of the South-East Division. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At the station, the staff presented a domestic violence case and the two boys heard the complaint and issued the necessary directions. While Salman shared his dream of becoming a police officer as it is a noble profession which can provide solace to many people in distress, Mithilesh said that he was more interested in traffic management and road discipline.

The two boys shared lunch with the police staff and were given goodies by the officials as mementos. "It was a great feeling to make their dream come true and to be a part of it," Mr. Baba said.

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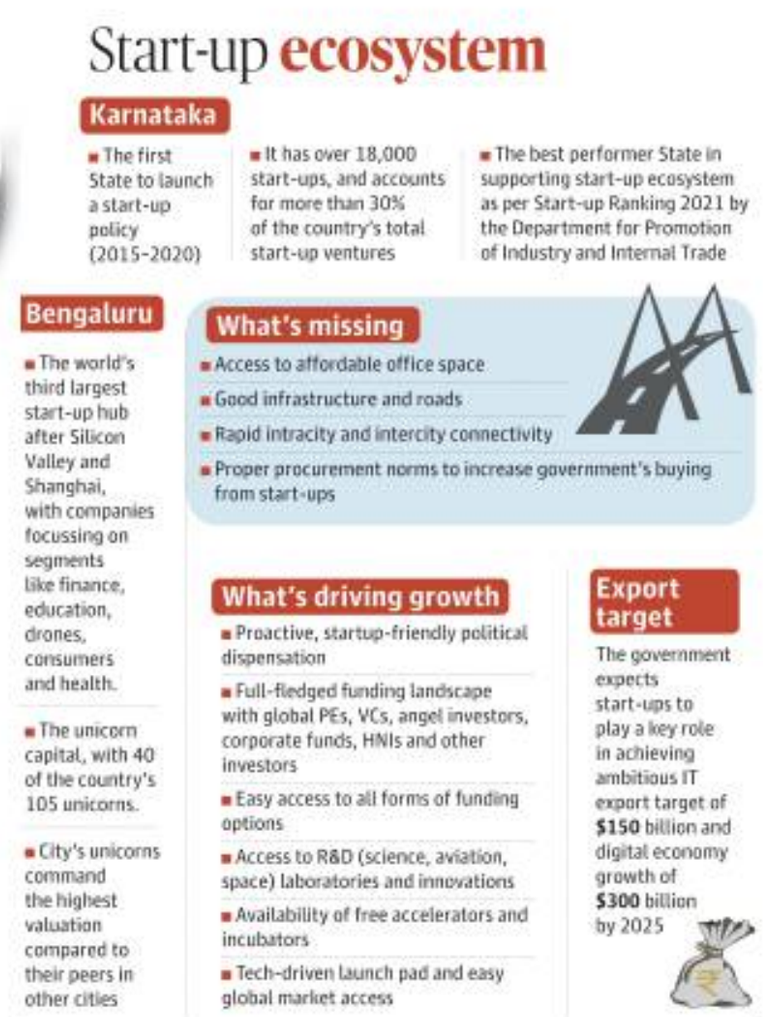
Bengaluru start-ups hope to stay warm in long winter

The city's start-up ecosystem has so far maintained a decent appetite for funds, but the scenario is slowly changing now with global macro-economic factors and signs of a global recession already starting to play on the minds of investors

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS



MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Bengaluru, the start-up capital of India – which currently enjoys a unique leadership position, being the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world after Silicon Valley and Shanghai – is likely to enter a long winter as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, rising interest rates and recession fears are tightening the liquidity in the global funding market.

The city has a full-fledged funding landscape studded with close to 500 venture capitalists (VCs), private equity (PEs) players, dozens of corporate funds, some 4,687 angel investors, hundreds of high net-worth individuals (HNIs)and other investors. In fact, it saw an unprecedented surge in VC investments over the last couple of years. Start-ups in the city attracted VC funds of $7.5 billion in the first half of 2022, when the whole country received only $18 billion, as per fund tracker Venture Intelligence.

The start-up ecosystem so far has maintained a decent appetite for funds. Therefore, funding in the last five years, even amidst the pandemic, has been good. However, the scenario is slowly changing now with global macro-economic factors and signs of a global recession already starting to play on the minds of investors, according to venture capitalists in the city.

V. Balakrishnan, Chairman of Exfinity Ventures and former CFO of Infosys, said that the city's start-ups have been successful in attracting significant venture investments so far. However, the funding scene is slightly changing now, he added.

Liquidity getting tighter

"The start-up funding generally is slowing down with investors insisting on profitability and better unit metrics. Large B2C rounds, which we have seen in the past, are not happening now. With liquidity getting tightened globally, it is going to be a long winter for the funding environment," cautioned Mr. Balakrishanan.

Prashant Prakash, partner at venture firm Accel, said the velocity of funding has continued but it would change with the reset in global liquidity over the next year. "It is not that the funding has dried up completely. Product and engineering-led growth will be the focus over the next one year. Great companies will find capital chasing them and so funding will continue," Mr. Prakash explained.

With global uncertainties in the backdrop, global VCs are currently delaying funding for several Indian start-ups. However, the investors further said startups that were innovative, frugal and with great unit economics would continue to attract global funds.

Other challenges

Other than the impending global fund crunch, the start-up economy is also facing several other challenges, including lack of affordable office space, traffic snarls, poor road infrastructure, long-time commute, lack of rapid intercity/intercity connectivity (a patchy metro rail), the rising cost of talent, inability to attract the right talent, red tape, bribes and market-reach challenges.

"The State government is very supportive, despite that we still have bureaucrats who don't move files or give clearances without bribes. Many entrepreneurs keep quiet and pay up out of fear of getting into controversies and losing further time," said a source at a drone technology start-up who did not wish to be named.

Geetha Manjunath, founder of Niramaya, a healthtech venture, said although the city has several things going for start-up ventures, it does not have hospitals like Tatas or AIIMS to collaborate with. "The government seems to have a bias towards any tech test done out here," added Ms. Manjunath.

Tim Mathews, CEO, and co-founder, Finsall, a fintech firm, said both the cost of talent and cost of living in the city was increasing on a par with other cities. Apart from rising wage costs, poor infrastructure continues to be an issue. "We have our employees traveling two hours daily for work. Start-up hubs, like HSR Layout, do not even have metro services yet," added Mr. Mathew.

Some start-up founders also felt the government was not showing much willingness to buy products and services from small ventures instead it preferred big brands. It was important that Karnataka came out with some changes in procurement norms to increase the government's buying from start-ups, suggested industry apex body Nasscom.

Why start-ups thrive

Despite these issues, the State is home to 18,000 start-ups (60,000 across the country), employing over six lakh people and these ventures cumulatively generated revenues of over $4 billion in 2021-22. This was despite pandemic shutdowns and challenges.

The city's PSUs, such as HAL, BEL, BEML, ITI, HMT, BHEL, prestigious research and science organisations like IISc, DRDO, ISRO, NAL and other R&D centres, academic institutions like IIMB and National Law School of India University and a chip design environment brought by Texas Instruments in mid-1980s made it an attractive haven for entrepreneurs in and outside the country.

K.S. Viswanathan, vice president, industry initiatives at Nasscom, said, "Karnataka, no doubt, has the natural advantage of a strong, academic and research heritage that propels the growth of tech ecosystem, including start-ups. Availability of a complete start-up ecosystem including VCs, PEs, GCCs, MNCs, deep tech founders adds value to Bengaluru's start-up story."

The ambiance became even more defined and well suited for entrepreneurship, once the city started riding the global wave of tech revolution right from the early 90s. Today, the city has over 400 Fortune 500 companies, it has 5,500 tech firms, both domestic and multinational players, and over global capability centres (formerly captive centres).

In addition, the State has dozens of incubators and accelerators. Sectors that are doing well, post-pandemic, are tech firms focussed on finance, education, commerce, drone, consumers, and health, say venture capitalists.

The start-up capital of the country has emerged as a unicorn and soonicorn (soon to be unicorn) hub in the last over two years, and currently houses 40 of the country's total 105 unicorns. Bengaluru will add 46 new unicorns, to its existing tally in the next two to four years, when the whole country is expected to see the emergence of 122 new unicorns during this period, as per a forecast by Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022.

Global recognition

Bengaluru has been constantly turning the heat on the existing global start-up leaders such as the US and China.

According to the Start-up Ecosystem Report 2022, released by the Israeli firm Startup-Blink, Bengaluru is set to pip Shanghai in the global start-up ecosystem index. Karnataka has been consecutively winning the 'Top performer' ranking by Start-up Ranking Report prepared by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, from 2018 and 2019 and even recently in 2022.

Karnataka has set an ambitious target to achieve $150 billion worth of IT exports and grow its digital economy to a $300 billion mark by 2025.

According to minister for IT, BT, Science & Technology and Skill Development, C.N. Ashwath Narayan, in addition to the inherent strengths of the city, the State government has introduced supportive policies and made strategic interventions to grow the start-up economy as the sector is expected to significantly contribute to the State's economic growth and GDP mandate for 2025-26.

The State has been supporting new ventures throughout their business lifecycle – right from providing funding at the ideation stage, to offering incubation support, mentorship, co-working facilities and setting up of dedicated start-up cell, the Minister said. Through Elevate, for instance, the Government has supported 531 start-ups with a committed fund of ₹124.28 crore.

GUEST COLUMN

Beyond Bengaluru clusters will contribute $10 billion by 2030

The focus is on the development of three clusters: Hubballi-Belgaum-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Mysuru

B.V. NAIDU

Bengaluru has been a progressive start-up ecosystem with several blessings. The country's start-up capital has also been ranked fifth in the world for technology venture capital investments in 2022. Bengaluru was the top Asian city in terms of investments received and it is the number one destination for venture capital funding in the country. The city attracted VC funds of $ 7.5 billion in the first half of 2022.

Funding is critical to start-ups, and Bengaluru is home to the top 115+ venture funds and several of angel investors supported by a matured mentor network that has been supporting the ecosystem. The technology and innovation ecosystem attracts talent due to the early lead of the IT Industry which began with Infosys, Wipro, Mindtree and many other tech firms. These companies have created many angel investors and start-up mentors. A Start-up Vision Group was created to provide insights on strengthening the start-up ecosystem in the State and involve stakeholders from industry and academia.

Dedicated policy

Karnataka is the first state to come up with a dedicated start-up policy and which ensures specific financial incentives and support schemes for start-ups. Start-ups in Karnataka employ over six lakh people and generated a revenue of over $4 billion in the year 2021-22, despite being a pandemic year.

Under Karnataka Start-up Policy 2015-2020, the State provides early stage/ proof of concept stage funding as Idea2PoC grant. The funding support offered by the government under this scheme is in the form of grant-in-aid up to ₹50 lakh for each start-up. The funds are disbursed in instalments based on the achievement of project milestones.

"Elevate" is an initiative of the Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology to provide a comprehensive entrepreneurship platform for start-ups. The top technology-based start-ups are chosen from across the State and so far over 700 start-ups have been funded with a commitment of ₹165 crore under this scheme.

Secondary cities

Bengaluru has the most mature ecosystem globally and as a result, all start-ups want to be here and therefore deny growth opportunities for secondary cities. A special entity, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), was created to foster a Bengaluru-like start-up economy in emerging tech clusters like Mysuru, Mangaluru and Hubli-Dharwad-Belgaum, Shivamogga, Tumakuru and Kalaburagi. To start with, a total of ₹75 crore has been laid out by the State government for the development of three clusters: Hubballi-Belgaum-Dharwad, Mangaluru and Mysuru.

It is estimated that by the year 2030, the cities in the Beyond Bengaluru clusters would be contributing $10 billion towards the IT industry, having employment potential of over 10 lakh people and establishment of over 10,000 start-ups. KDEM also is taking steps to solve issues like start-up funding and talent pool availability here.

Challenges ahead

However, despite support from the government and ecosystem players, some of the critical challenges start-ups currently face include the rising cost of talent, the inability to attract the best talent and lack of a proper go-to-market strategy.

Going forward, the biggest challenge is going to be around fund availability and fund raising as global macro-economic pressures are going to bring a long winter scenario in the investment market. Schemes such as Elevate, Samrudh and Start-up Seed Fund of the Centre etc are here to provide seed funds, but banks in the country should get ready to offer collateral-free loans up to ₹2 crore per startup under CGTSMSE (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises), an initiative jointly set up by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME). State Bank of India is already active in this space and it is planning to open the country's first start-up dedicated branch in Bengaluru.

(B.V Naidu is chairman of Karnataka Digital Economy Mission. He was formerly director of Software Technology Parks of India.)

Meet the taletellers

Although oral storytelling is not the most popular or profitable performing art, it has a niche following in Bengaluru

:: PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

The latest edition of 'Stories from the Mahabharata', on July 16, at the performing art space Lahe Lahe in Indiranagar, Bengaluru, had an unusual audience member. A guy from the Netherlands. The co-founder of the space, Mansee Shah Thard, had not, until now, seen a foreigner participating in Aparna Jaishankar's storytelling session on the Indian epic on every third Saturday. Mansee says he was to fly back the next day. "Of all the things he could have done in Bengaluru, he chose a storytelling session!" she says.

Although oral storytelling is not the most popular or profitable performing art, it has a niche following in Bengaluru. The availability of performing art spaces such as Lahe Lahe, Ranga Shankara, Atta Galatta, Shoonya and Bangalore Creative Circus among others is an important reason for this, reckons Vikram Sridhar, who has been a professional storyteller for about a decade now.

"Two weeks ago when I did a show I had 55 people coming in – a good number for a storytelling event," he says. "For an art form to flourish, you need artists and spaces. Bengaluru has both."

"You can call Bengaluru the capital of storytelling (in India)," says Geeta Ramanujam, considered a pioneer of contemporary storytelling in the country. The Kathalaya International Academy of Storytelling, which she founded in 2003, has trained about 90,000 people in the art form. The academy in BTM Layout offers a beginner's certification course and a diploma. "For the first 9-10 years, there were no professional storytellers. From 2012 onwards, we started witnessing them one by one – and most of them had taken up our course."

Purpose of stories

Vikram was one of them. Although he tells tales from diverse genres, a recurring motif in his stories is wildlife. "For me, stories are are a way to look at wildlife, especially when we are slowly losing it. Today, we predominantly have human stories but forget that nature is a part of us," he says, "Stories are an important part of our conservation activities."

Apart from wildlife, they also help us sustain our cultural heritage, adds Vikram. Aparna's 'Stories from the Mahabharata' sessions are an example of this. "Usually when people ponder on the *Mahabharata*, they think of the Pandavas vs Kauravas, good vs evil. But it is not black and white at all," says Aparna,

"For instance, Duryodhana, who is usually considered a villain, has temples in Kerala and Himachal. They worship him because he was against caste discrimination. The epic is also so fascinatingly complex. It talks about ethics, morality, and other areas of philosophy."

Yarn spinners (From left) Vikram Sridhar, Sowmya Srinivasan, Aparna Jaishankar and Geeta Ramanujam • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Even our folktales, which were passed on from one generation to the next, carry a lot of our heritage. Once people started migrating, they got lost. We, as storytellers, are reviving them in a form that is palatable in today's age," she adds.

Sharath Prabhat, who belongs to the lineage of Saint Poet Purandara Dasa, is trying to preserve Harikatha, a centuries-old form of storytelling that involves music and dance. "To make it more accessible, I tweak the form and the content. I talk about contemporary issues instead of mythological stories. I speak and sing in English if my audience don't understand Kannada."

Storytelling is an also an effective tool in education, says Sowmya Srinivasan, a professional storyteller, psychologist, and an educator. She believes stories can instil positive values in children without being too preachy. She cites an example.

"I was narrating a story to second grade students about a boy elephant named Jaggu who paints his nails. As I finished the story, one of the boys got up and said, 'Ma'am, I also like to polish on my nails.' To my surprise, everyone clapped when he said that, nobody laughed. The story promoted inclusivity and acceptance."

Stories are not just for kids.

Sowmya also works extensively with adults through her 'healing storytelling' practice. It is a type of creative art therapy using mindfulness techniques, which helps them unravel and understand their feelings. She regularly conducts online and offline sessions for people from diverse backgrounds.

Storytelling in digital age

Sharath is concerned about the diminishing interest in traditional storytelling forms like Harikatha. Even though artists like him and the cultural centres in Bengaluru try to preserve them, the competition from digital entertainment platforms is tough to beat, he concedes.

In the era of Virtual Reality and other immersive storytelling technologies, how relevant is oral storytelling?

"Extremely relevant," says Sowmya. "We have to understand that human beings are social animals. If we lose this human connection, we will be headed towards a mass mental health breakdown."

She cites an example to illustrate the impact of live, oral storytelling. "I did a storytelling course for a university's communication students. It was online due to COVID. A few months later, the college reopened after the lockdowns. We did the same course offline. This time, however, the reaction was overwhelmingly different. They were like, 'Please give us this everyday!'"

Vikram says he has had adults in tears telling him how therapeutic they felt after his sessions. "They felt that way because it it involves sitting together and interacting in an intimate setting. We should ask ourselves, 'When was the last time we did that?'"

Slow, low and heavy music

Dirge, Djinn And Miskatonic, Megadrone and Bevar Sea get together for Spectral Decay 3 in Bengaluru this weekend

:: ANURAG TAGAT

When metal and punk gig series Spectral Decay launched in May this year, the city's underground circuit for heavy music arguably found a new home. Now, in its third edition on July 24, Spectral Decay brings together a lineup of doom, stoner and sludge metal bands for a rare gathering.

The gig brings together Bengaluru's very own purveyors of doom – Djinn And Miskatonic – performing for the first time since 2017, alongside stoner/doom band Bevar Sea (returning to the stage themselves since 2018), Mumbai doom/sludge/post-metal band Dirge (visiting Bengaluru for the first time in two years) and the live debut of drone/doom project Megadrone.

While Djinn and Miskatonic will perform numbers from their first two albums and one song from their upcoming third album, Bevar Sea will be debuting their latest album, The Timeless Zone, live at Spectral Decay. Dirge, who are also on the verge of releasing their second album later this year, will perform with synth player Apurv Agrawal joining them on stage.

Vocalist Tabish Khidir calls Spectral Decay one of the best lineups the band has been part of. "It's always been great playing in the city. So we're definitely more than excited to be back after two years with a lot of new music and an overall heavier sound."

A lot of eyes are likely to be on Megadrone, the project helmed by multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Ganesh Krishnaswamy. Also part of metal veterans Kryptos, Ganesh will take the stage with Bevar Sea as well at Spectral Decay.

With Megadrone, he will be joined by Leslie Charles on guitars and Navnit Belur on synthesizer. Ganesh insists that this show is wholly new material written specifically for the stage.

Catch Megadrone, Bevar Sea, Djinn and Miskatonic and Dirge at Spectral Decay 3, taking place on July 24 at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala. Tickets: ₹699, plus ₹499 cover charge, available on Insider.in

Highway Heavies Bevar Sea will play at Spectral Decay 3 • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gearing up for a genre bender

Nivin Pauly's Malayalam film *Mahaveeryar*, is a courtroom drama that also combines elements of time travel and fantasy

:: SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Nivin Pauly and Abrid Shine have never shied away from experimenting. If Abrid's debut directorial venture, *1983*, saw Nivin play a father with aplomb, *Action Hero Biju* saw the actor don *khaki* and also turn producer. The two have come together after six years for *Mahaveeryar*. The film is based on a short film written by M Mukundan and is produced by Nivin.

Nivin says it was the script that enthused him and the "comfort I feel while working with Shine *ettan*". According to Nivin, the film is "a courtroom drama that is also a fantasy film with elements of time travel. It is a genre bender. "

He believes Abrid has the ability to make films that stand the test of time. Confident that *Mahaveeryar* would be a film with a different narrative, Nivin agreed to act in it without a second thought. "While it is a fun-filled film, it talks about a global phenomenon," says Nivin.

Returning to the big screen after a break of three years, Nivin says that he is willing to wait for characters and themes that are not run-of-the-mill. After making a mark as a chocolate hero and campus heart-throb in blockbusters like *Thattathin Marayathu*, *Premam* and *Ohm Shanti Oshaana*, Nivin broke out of his comfort zone with Shyamaprasad's *English, An Autumn in London*, Geetu Mohandas' *Moothon*, Rajeev Ravi's *Thurumukham* and so on.

Thurumukham, in which Nivin plays a pivotal role as Mattancherry Moidu, has been waiting for release for more than two years. "Rajeev *ettan* had told me the film might be delayed. I wanted to do that role as I believe that it is a landmark film that marks an important milestone in the history of Kerala. I hope the producer releases the film at the earliest."

Marching ahead Nivin Pauly in stills from *Mahaveeryar* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

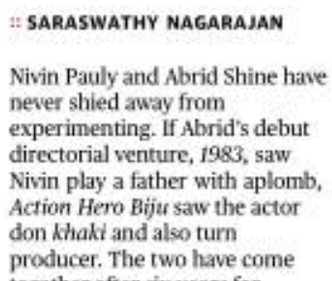
Talking about his spectrum of characters, he adds: "Every actor wants characters that challenge him and are as different as possible from his previous roles. My character in *Mahaveeryar*, a Sadhu named Apoornanadhan, promises to be one of the those interesting ones," he asserts.

The cast includes Asif Ali, Major Ravi, Lal, Lalu Alex, Siddique, Mallika Sukumaran, Shanvi Sukumaran, Vijay Menon and Sudheer Karamana, among others. The trailer shows snippets of court proceedings, interspersed with Nivin in the costume of a godman and Asif as a warrior (Veerabhadran) from another world.

The story unravels over two time periods. However the "time travel is not like a sci-fi but narrated as a gripping story. Shine *ettan* has an eye for detail and viewers who watched *1983* would remember how effortlessly he showed the passage of five years."

Shot extensively in Rajasthan and Kochi, *Mahaveeryar's* cast and crew had to cool their heels for some time because of the lockdown.

After a lull, Nivin is back in the thick of action with Rosshan Andrrews' *Padavettu* and a Tamil film directed by Ram.



Mellow melodies

"Wings of Melody", is a classical music ensemble, which celebrates birds and birdsong. It will feature new compositions, based on ragas and are inspired by birds. Musicians such as Suma Sudhindra (veena), Manasi Prasad (vocals), Jyotsna Srikanth (violin), Amith Nadig (flute), Shadrach Solomon (keys) and Karthik Mani (drums) will perform.
The event will be held on July 30, 6 pm at MLR Convention Centre JP Nagar.
Tickets are available at indianmusicexperience.org

Author sighting

Jeet Thayil will be at Champaca, signing copies of his Sahitya Award winning collection of poems *These Errors Are Correct!* It is a collection of poems that capture the emotions of rage and tenderness, meditations on grief, the blurring of time, and more.
The event is scheduled for July 23 at 4 pm.

A flea with a conscience

At Indiranagar's SOCIAL Culture Chutney, there will be sustainable brands and an artists market, tattoo artists, thrift finds and more. The aim is to "nurture hyperlocal communities" and the event is organised under the #GreenerSocial vertical initiative, also called #SOS a.k.a #SOCIALOnSustainability. It is organised in association with The Art and Flea Project.
The event will be held on July 23 and 24 between noon and 7 pm. Entry is free but RSVP on Insider.in

Amplifier Imran Khan in town

Zee Live's Supermoon brings the musician Imran Khan, to Bengaluru as part of his first-ever multi-city India Tour. The tour starts off in the city on July 23 at Bangalore XU. Imran has given us songs such as Amplifier, Satisfya and Bewafa to name a few.
Tickets and show timings on BookMyShow

BQFF returns

Bangalore Queer Film Festival (BQFF) is back after last year's hiatus due to the pandemic. The 12th edition of the three-day festival commences on July 22 at the Max Mueller Bhavan, featuring films from different countries. This edition's lineup includes Simon Maria Kubiena's *Blue Noise*, Eline Gehring's *Nico*, Faraz Shariat's *No Hard Feelings*, and Laurentia Genske's *Zuhur's Daughters*.
What started with a bunch of friends watching films on a few mattresses has grown into an annual film festival celebrating queer culture. This community-funded, collectively-run, entry-free, annual film festival focuses on films from non-Western locations and films by independent filmmakers. The festival also hosts art exhibitions, poetry readings, drag acts and theatre performances by queer artists.
Entry is free. For registrations, log onto www.bqff.in/register

Question mark over Eshwarappa's reinduction into Cabinet

Since the former Minister has now been absolved of all allegations of abetting the suicide of a contractor, he is said to be lobbying hard for his inclusion again

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

With the Udupi police giving a clean chit to former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa in the case of the death of a contractor, speculations are rife over whether he will be now reinducted into the Cabinet. While Mr. Eshwarappa has been lobbying hard for his reinduction, the final call on the matter will be taken by the party high command, sources in the party said.

K.S. Eshwarappa

Jarkiholi case

Sources close to Mr. Eshwarappa argued that since the leader has now been absolved of all allegations of abetment of suicide that led to his resignation, it was imperative to be reinducted into the Cabinet. Ramesh Jarkiholi, another Minister who quit over a sex CD scandal and subsequently got a clean chit in a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, is also lobbying hard to be inducted back.

Associates close to both the leaders cite the example of Congress leader K.J. George who resigned in a similar case and was inducted back into the Cabinet after CID gave him a clean chit.

On his part, Mr. Eshwarappa, answering a question on his reinduction, said it was the party's high command's call and he would abide by it.

The question has gained an immediacy as Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who will be visiting New Delhi on Sunday, answering a question on Thursday, said, "Cabinet expansion would be discussed during his Delhi visit."

He also said the new list of appointees to boards and corporations would also be finalised after his Delhi visit.

The long pending exercise of Cabinet expansion was last put-off due to the Presidential elections.

"The party recently made appointees to all boards and corporations resign to make way for a new set of workers to be accommodated there. Cabinet expansion/reshuffle will also likely happen along with it. There are hardly 10 months left for the Assembly polls," said a senior party leader.

Party sources said that while Mr. Jarkiholi was likely to be inducted back into the Cabinet since the party had given him the word in 2019, when he led a team of rebel MLAs from Congress to BJP, bringing it to power, the same could not be told about Mr. Eshwarappa. "The party high command has been clear about retiring certain seniors in the State unit to make way for a new generation of leaders and Mr. Eshwarappa, 74, is one of them. His induction into the Basavaraj Bommai Cabinet itself was opposed. However, the party relented for his loyalty and the lack of OBC faces. Now the party is grooming younger leaders like Sunil Kumar as its next OBC faces," a senior party strategist said.

However, the strategist also admitted that it would be difficult for the party to induct Mr. Jarkiholi on the grounds that he has got a clean chit and deny the same to Mr. Eshwarappa.

Cong., AAP slam clean chit to KSE

'BJP is covering up the case to save face of the government'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa got a clean chit from the police in contractor Santosh Patil suicide case, the State Congress leaders said the BJP is covering up the bribery case to save the face of the government.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and senior leader and MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao demanded a judicial probe into the alleged abetment to suicide case to ensure justice to the family of Santhosh Patil.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said during the probe of the suicide case, the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Home Minister Araga Jnanedra had already given a certificate that he would be acquitted. Mr. Shivakumar said 'B report' had been submitted to save the face of the government.

The Congress leaders said Santosh Patil was a BJP activist and the BJP government should be ashamed of covering up the case. The KPCC chief said Santosh Patil's wife has written to the Governor, but the BJP government has not been able to provide justice to the victim's family. The people will not forgive the "40% commission government."

Aam Admi Party too has slammed the 'B Report.' Addressing a press conference, party State secretary B.T. Naganna said, "Yielding to political pressure, Udupi police have completed and submitted the reports within three months without probing Mr. Eshwarappa. State Police must take back this report and investigate further."

Five Youth Cong. workers held for setting fire to their car

They were protesting against the Enforcement Directorate for questioning Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police sounded an alert and stepped up vigil after two parked cars were set on fire in separate incidents at Shanthinagar bus stand near the Enforcement Directorate office and another in Seshadripuram on Thursday by Youth Congress activists, who were protesting against the ED continuing to question party president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar during a protest against the Enforcement Directorate, at Freedom park in Bengaluru on Thursday, and (right) the car that was set on fire by party workers. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Wilson Garden police arrested five Congress workers for setting fire to a car during a protest at Shanthi Nagar bus stand.

However, no arrests have been made in the second case yet. The police have towed away the car after dousing the fire.

State's Youth Congress president Mohammed Nalapad later said that the activists were expressing their anger and frustration and had set fire to their own cars. Mr. Nalapad said that he was not justifying the acts, but the incidents showed how frustrated the party workers were about the developments.

In both the cases, strict action would be taken on charges of rioting, creating public nuisance and protesting without permission, the police said.

At Freedom Park

Meanwhile, all senior Congress leaders of the party participated in the protest at Freedom Park. Speaking at the event, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said that the BJP was misleading people by saying that the Congress protests indicated lack of courage to face the law. "The protests are not a show of fear or disrespect for law of the land. It is a protest against all government agencies being misused by the BJP government in an effort to silence all Opposition," he said. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said that he was himself a victim of such "harassment" by enforcement agencies.

The Upparpet police also detained senior Congress leaders while they were trying to break the barriers at Freedom Park to march towards Raj Bhavan. They were released later.

Bommai for Delhi today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will leave for New Delhi on Friday to take part in the dinner hosted by the Prime Minister in honour of the President.

He will also embark on a two-day visit to Delhi from July 25 to 26 and will be leading a delegation to urge the Centre not to issue a final notification of the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in Western Ghats.

The State government has opposed the draft notification of the ESA in Western Ghats. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change reissued a draft notification July 6, for the ESA in the Western Ghats.

The draft notification on Western Ghats issue has upset many legislators from the region. MLAs cutting across party lines had decided to gear up for a legal battle.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said: "I am heading for Delhi on July 24 with delegations of various departments. I am set to attend the oath taking ceremony of the new President on July 25. I am also leading a delegation to discuss the Kasturirangan report." Mr. Bommai said he will discuss Cabinet expansion during the Delhi visit "if the party top brass raise the issue."

Ex-Speaker triggers a row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Congress MLA and former Speaker Ramesh Kumar sparked a controversy by stating at the event at Freedom Park that Congress leaders have "made enough in the name of Gandhis" and that they should be ready for sacrifices for them in return now. BJP leaders came down heavily on these remarks. Minister K. Sudhakar "congratulated" the senior Congress leader for his "honesty" in accepting how "Congress looted India for 60 years" and asked Congress as to how would they go to the people with a straight face and ask votes.

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Notice Inviting e-Tender

Description	Sale of Quartz from Pangedumalai mines, Tirupur District and Exfoliated Vermiculite From Vermiculite mines, Sevalur, Tirupathur District, Tamilnadu	Sale of Dimensional granite blocks from certain quarries of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu.
Tender No.&Date	TAMIN/502/WAP-2/2022, Dated: 20.07.2022.	TAMIN/529/EX-1/2022, Dated: 15.07.2022
Tender ID	2022_TAMIN_240269_1	2022_TAMIN_243107_1.
Bid submission end date	22.08.2022 upto 1400 hrs	22.08.2022 at upto 1400 hrs.
Technical bid opening date	23.08.2022 at 1600 hrs	23.08.2022 at 1600 hrs.
EMD	Rs.1,15,000/- per mine (Rupees One lakh eighteen thousand only)	Rs.1,18,000/- (Rupees One lakh eighteen thousand only)or equivalent USD 1590 per quarry
Tender form fee	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only)	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) or equivalent USD 27 (Non-refundable)

Note : For further details please visit Tamil Nadu e-tendering portal https://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/2022/TENDER/2022 Sd/- General Manager (Finance)

Veerendra Heggade takes oath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Philanthropist and Dharmadhikari of the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala D. Veerendra Heggade on Thursday took oath as member of the Rajya Sabha. He took oath in Kannada and in the name of God. Mr. Heggade was nominated to the Upper House on July 6.

His nomination filled the void that coastal region of the State has had in the Rajya Sabha.

Courts can't don the hat of a town planner, says High Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The courts cannot don the hat of a town planner or that of an accountant to minutely examine whether a slightly lesser extent of land would have fulfilled the objective of a project or whether the project could have been implemented satisfactorily at another location, said the High Court of Karnataka.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice P. Krishna Bhat made these observations in its judgment of dismissing pleas against acquisition of around 1,275 acres of lands for Upper Krishna Project's Unit-III rehabilitation scheme in two villages of Bakalkot district in 2013.

Sons of Karjol

The Bench dismissed the appeals filed by Gopal, Umesh and Arun, all children of Minister Govind Karjol, and several other land owners, who had challenged the December 2021 order of a Single Bench, which had upheld land acquisition notifications. "When a measure taken by the government is for implementing a mega infrastructural project pursuant to a policy framed embedded with the opinion of experts, court should refrain from acting like a super-accountant and interference with the same should be extremely rare where it is inevitable," observed Justice Bhat while speaking for the Bench.

While rejecting contentions that excess lands were acquired for UKP Unit-III rehabilitation scheme and it could have been implemented at a different location, the Bench said, "It is primarily the task of the government to govern and in the guise of judicial review, courts should not seek to run the governments." "Smelling foul-play in the action of the government at a mere whiff of suggestion would make running the administration an impossibility and elected governments which are accountable to the people will be hamstrung in implementing projects for promoting public well," the bench observed.

"Where two options are possible, it is not for the Court to act as an expert and substitute its own view for the view of the executive. In matters of such nature, an appeal is essentially to the ballot and not to the courts. Courts do not have the expertise nor the political mandate for deciding the comparative merits of two options," the bench said.

Mammoth project

Pointing out that implementation of Unit-III UKP cannot be seen in isolation as it is a mammoth project, the Bench said the State government is bound to consider various factors, including the impossibility of rehabilitating from the old habitat in the same manner in the acquired land due to compulsion warranted by new methods of town planning and concomitant requirement for civic amenities.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Senior Assistant Director (Education),
N.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No.: P.E.O/P.R/428/2022-23 Date: 21.07.2022

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS

Rate list is invited to obtain the current market rates from the respective Suppliers / Vendors for issue of Blue and Brown Belts to the students studying in the Schools / Colleges of the Corporation for the year 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Details of School / Colleges	Items Name	Qty.	Specification	Rates (Inclusive of GST)
1	Nursery Schools (Boys and Girls)	Brown Belt	4660		
2	Primary Schools (Boys and Girls)	Brown Belt	3450		
3	High Schools (Boys)	Brown Belt	3532		
4	Pre University Colleges (Boys)	Blue Belt	1500		
		Total	13142		

(1) Rates of Shipping and GST Should be included. (2) Last Date for Submission of Shield Rates: **25.07.2022** upto **4.00 p.m.** (3) The Rates shiled will be opened on **Date: 26.07.2022** at **4.30 p.m.** Interested persons can participate. (For more details contact this phone number 080-22975728)

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Education)
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY. AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Fellow activists pay last respects to G. Rajashekara

They hail his association with progressive politics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Writer, critic and activist G. Rajashekara, who passed away on Wednesday, was cremated at Beedinagudde crematorium in Udupi on Thursday noon.

Earlier, a large number of his students and fellow activists paid their last respects.

Writer Vaidehi, president of Karnataka Komu Souharda Vedike K.L. Ashok, president of Democratic Youth Federation of India's State unit Muneer Katipalla, former Minister Vinaya Kumar Sorake were among those who paid their last respects.

Condoling the death of Mr. Rajashekara, former Karnataka Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah described him as an outspoken man who strove to strengthen cordial relationships in society all his life.

President of Dakshina Kannada unit of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) Aboobakkar Kulai said that he led the agitations of minorities, Dalits and Backward Classes. Mr. Rajashekara strongly fought against the rise of Hindutva forces.

Secretary of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi units of the Communit Party of India (CPI) V. Kukyan said that Mr. Rajashekara supported Left ideology and led progressive agitations and movements all his life.

His death was a setback to the progressive movements and that the country now required an activist like Mr. Rajashekara more than ever, the CPI said.

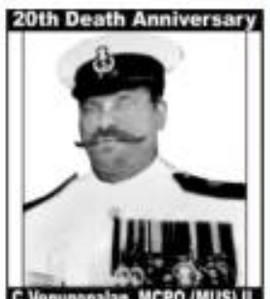
Activist K. Phaniraj, who participated in many agitations with the deceased, said that Mr. Rajashekara had a unique capacity of connecting the global developments with very local happenings. He was instrumental in launching "Souharda Vedike", a citizen's movement, to counter the raise of communal forces in undivided Dakshina Kannada since 1998.

Mr. Rajashekara who worked in LIC till his retirement was influenced by his brother Vasudeva Rao, who was actively involved in LIC's employees' union, to engage himself in trade union activities, Mr. Phaniraj said. The late thinker was also influenced by the thoughts of K. Shivaram Karanth, who also hailed from the coastal region, he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

20th Death Anniversary


C Venugopalan, MCPO (MUS) II, (Retd.) Indian Navy
22 JULY 2002
Remembered by family
Ct: 96552 88504

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Respectful Homage
21st Anniversary
The Visionary and Karmayogi is no more.
But his ideals will continue to guide us.

Shri. S.Viswanathan
(21.12.1915 - 22.07.2001)
Founder Chairman SPB - ESVIN Group

Directors & Employees of
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(ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ತಿಪ್ಪು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ-583231
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ-08539-230205 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ-ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
Email ID-cdpokoppal@gmail.com

TENDER SCHEDULE

1) Tender Reference No. : No. **CDPOKPL/EGG/Tender/2022-23 dated :20.07.2022.** 2) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from e Procurement website : **From 20.07.2022.** 3) Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting : **28.07.2022 at 11:00 AM** at the following venue: **Office of the Child Development Project Officer Department of Women and Child Development. KSGEA Building, behind eshwar temple, Taluk:koppal District:koppal Karnataka – Pincode:583231.** 4) Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e Procurement Portal : **20.08.2022 up to 05:00 PM.** 5) Last Date and Time for uploading of e Tender in e Procurement portal : **20.08.2022 up to 5:00 PM.** 6) Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids : **22.08.2022 after 05:00 PM.** 7) Date and Time of opening of Financial Bids : **30.08.2022.** 8) Place of opening of Tenders : **e Procurement Portal.** 9) Address for Communication : **Office of the Child Development Project Officer Department of Women and Child Development Address: KSGEA Building, behind eshwar temple, Taluk:koppal District:koppal Karnataka – Pincode:583231 Phone: +91-7259351515 Email: cdpokoppal12@gmail.com.**
1) Tenderers should upload Pre-bid queries in the eProcurement Portal only. Completed tenders shall be uploaded through e-tendering system by the Tenderers using their User ID, in the manner prescribed under Section II – Instructionsto Tenderers of Tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated in Tender Schedule.
2) In the event of the specified date of opening of Technical Bid being declared a holiday for the Purchaser, the Technical Bid will be opened on the next working day.

Sd/- CHILD DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
DIPR/KOPPAL/255/2022-23/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY CDPO KOPPAL

Stolen 19th century painting traced to U.S. museum

It was purchased from an antiquities dealer who was arrested by T.N. police

R. SIVARAMAN
CHENNAI

A 19th century painting of Raja Serfoji and his son Sivaji, which was stolen from Saraswathi Mahal, Thanjavur, a few years ago has been traced by the Idol Wing CID police to the Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts, in the U.S.

The painting was purchased in 2006 from an international antiquities dealer Subash Kapoor, who was arrested by the Tamil Nadu police in 2011 on charges of smuggling several antiquities and artefacts.

K. Jayanth Murali, Director-General of Police, Idol Wing CID, told *The Hindu*, "The rare painting was reportedly stolen years ago. But a complaint was lodged only recently. We have traced the painting in the U.S. and registered a case against Subash who is the mastermind of the theft. We will take him into custody to identify the other accused involved in the offence."

Originally, the Idol Wing CID received a complaint from Elephant G. Rajendran in 2017 about the disappearance of the painting of Raja Serfoji and his son Sivaji from Saraswathi Mahal.

After the registration of a case, the Idol Wing CID took up the investigation.

There was no breakthrough in the investigation initially and later the probe was expedited by officers led by Mr. Murali.

The painting of Raja Serfoji and his son Sivaji stolen from Saraswathi Mahal in Thanjavur. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

History of the painting

For long, the rulers of Thanjavur had been devoid of absolute power. Serfoji, placed by the British on the throne over his stepbrother Amar Singh, died in 1832.

His only son Sivaji ruled until 1855. However, he had no male successor. Thanjavur became a casualty of Lord Dalhousie's infamous 'Doctrine of Lapse', and it got absorbed into British-ruled Indian provinces. The painting, which has Raja Serfoji and his young son, according to some historians, was probably painted between 1822 and 1827 and kept in the Saraswathi Mahal.

In 1918, the Saraswathi Mahal Library was opened to the public. Efforts were made to microfilm and catalogue its contents in 1965 when Indira Gandhi, who was then Information and Broadcasting Minister, sanctioned the fund for the library's development. Despite this, there exists no record to show the disappearance of the painting from the mahal.

Purchased in 2006

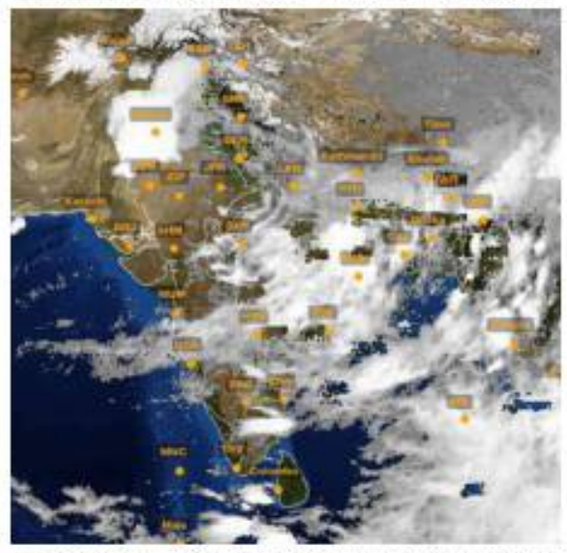
When there was no progress in the case, the Idol wing officers decided to check the museums and websites of antiquites collectors abroad.

While doing so, they found that the 19th-century painting had been purchased by the Peabody Essex Museum in 2006. Further, it revealed that the museum had purchased the painting from Subash for $35,000. The museum is one of several major art institutions worldwide that had purchased items from art dealer Subash, who was arrested in 2011 at the Frankfurt airport on charges of trafficking in stolen antique goods from India.

"Through proper investigation, we have successfully traced the painting through Homeland Security in the U.S. Now, the wing has initiated steps to bring the painting of Serfoji back to Saraswathi Mahal by proving the ownership through documents. Further enquiries with the authorities concerned have confirmed our findings. We hope to retrieve the painting and restore it to the Saraswathi Mahal library under the UNESCO treaty soon. The wing has initiated steps to restore the painting to the library," Mr. Murali said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.6	26.2	Kozhikode	–	31.5	24.6
Ahmedabad	2	34.0	25.2	Kurnool	–	35.0	25.3
Aizawl	–	28.4	22.2	Lucknow	54	33.0	24.9
Allahabad	–	32.3	26.2	Madurai	–	36.8	25.6
Bengaluru	82.6	27.9	20.5	Mangaluru	27.6	29.4	22.8
Bhopal	0.7	27.0	22.9	Mumbai	11	30.5	25.6
Bhubaneswar	–	30.7	24.5	Mysuru	–	32.0	21.0
Chandigarh	20	29.7	25.3	New Delhi	57	33.1	24.5
Chennai	–	36.5	26.0	Patna	6	31.5	25.4
Coimbatore	–	33.0	23.2	Port Blair	1	28.9	25.2
Dehradun	5	30.9	23.5	Puducherry	–	35.8	25.6
Gangtok	15.2	21.4	18.4	Pune	–	29.1	21.8
Goa	5	30.5	25.3	Raipur	2	29.7	24.8
Guwahati	60	33.2	26.2	Ranchi	–	30.9	23.5
Hubballi	–	29.0	22.0	Shillong	5	26.6	18.5
Hyderabad	–	31.0	24.2	Shimla	24	25.0	19.4
Imphal	13	30.8	21.4	Srinagar	–	27.8	20.0
Jaipur	11	33.8	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.0	24.2
Kochi	0.2	29.4	25.2	Tiruchi	–	37.6	26.0
Kohima	57	27.0	17.2	Vijayawada	–	35.2	26.4
Kolkata	1	33.9	27.9	Visakhapatnam	–	32.8	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	41	18	.55	43	97	
Bengaluru	7	10	.42	166	138	
Chennai	14	37	.41	47	42	
Delhi	6	26	121	95	88	
Hyderabad	18	26	.36	53	89	
Kolkata	11	16	.17	56	74	
Lucknow	8	66	.57	35	44	
Mumbai	26	4	110	18	67	
Pune	–	13	.60	39	35	
Visakhapatnam	16	44	.28	71	120	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Yamunanagar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 240 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim, recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF

Nandakumar of Crime magazine gets bail

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday granted bail to T.P. Nandakumar of *Crime* magazine arrested in a case relating to abusing verbally a former woman employee and allegedly forcing her to make a smutty video. The High Court, granting him bail, observed that he was under detention for more than 30 days. The police were granted his custody for some time and had no case that any further recovery was to be made from him, the High Court said.

'Kerala to lose ₹23,000 cr. due to policies of Centre'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Harmful Central financial policies will deprive Kerala of about ₹23,000 crore in the current fiscal compared to 2020-21, a situation which could seriously hobble the State's ability to fund welfare and development schemes, Finance Minister K. N. Balagopal informed the Assembly on Thursday.

Presenting a statement in the House which sought to raise "certain crucial issues for protecting Constitutional values and federal structure," Mr. Balagopal blamed the Narendra Modi government of using Central agencies to further its own interests and curtail the fiscal powers of the State.

Mr. Balagopal's statement came on the heels of the latest Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the State finances criticising the government for its 'off-budget borrowings' through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board and Kerala Social Security Pension Ltd. He accused the Centre of attempting to weaken welfare and development activities in the State by targeting KIIFB and the KSSPL.

He indicated that he was planning to write a "detailed letter" to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighting the issues affecting the federal financial structure.

Eight students booked on the charge of sexual assault

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The police have booked eight students of a reputed college in the city in a sexual assault case. Of these, a boy aged 17 is said to have uploaded on the social media a video clipping showing two of his classmates, a boy and a girl, indulging in lip lock at a flat in an apartment near Light House Hill Road.

The sexual assault by the boys came to light after the video clipping went viral on the social media on Wednesday evening.

Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar told reporters here on Thursday that investigation so far has revealed that some students had got together in February in the flat of their two classmates.

Following a "truth or dare" game held among the classmates in the flat, a classmate kissed another classmate and they were in lip lock.

One of the boys recorded it and uploaded the clipping on a WhatsApp group of the college recently as he had a grudge against the girl involved in the lip lock.

A teacher of the college who is the admin of the WhatsApp group noticed it. Subsequently, the college management conducted an inquiry and suspended some students in connection with the incident.

Investigation has revealed that all eight boys sexually assaulted the two girls, including the one involved in the kissing act, on different occasions at different locations.

Later, the boys recorded the sexual act and used the video clippings to seek further sexual favour from these girls.

Investigation will be long drawn out and the police will take the incident to its logical end. "College managements should keep a close tab on the activities of students and bring cases of extreme indiscipline and serious misconducts to the notice of the police," he said.

No investment clearance for Kaleshwaram: Centre

Project not eligible for national scheme

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
HYDERABAD

The Centre has made it clear that the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is not eligible for inclusion under the National Project scheme as Telangana has not obtained the mandatory investment clearance.

For inclusion of a project for funding under the National Projects scheme of the Jal Shakthi Ministry, it is required to be first appraised by the Central Water Commission and accepted by the Advisory Committee, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu said in Parliament on Thursday.

"If the project meets the laid-down norms for the scheme, it is required to be considered by the High-Powered Steering Committee set up for the purpose," he said.

To a question raised by the Congress MP for Nalgonda, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Minister said that in February 2016 and in December 2018, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include Kaleshwaram Project in the scheme. "However, in absence of investment clearance, the project is not eligible for inclusion," he said.

The Minister said that though the appraisal is undertaken by the Central Water Commission, the States should maintain details of total expenditure incurred by the different agencies, and the status of works for the ongoing projects.

Since water was a State subject, it was for the State governments to take up planning, design and implementation of irrigation projects.

Plastic pond

Toxic waste: A pond abutting P.V .Narasimha Rao Marg in Hyderabad has become a dump yard for plastics. Piles of used plastic have clogged the pond after the recent heavy rain in the city. • NAGARA GOPAL

'Phone not included in NIA's seizure report'

Swapna levels allegations on agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the diplomatic gold smuggling case, has alleged before the Kerala High Court that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had not included her seized iPhone which contained chats and other details regarding the involvement of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and others in the seizure mahazar.

Swapna Suresh

In a reply affidavit filed in the High Court on Thursday, Swapna alleged that M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, had told her that Mr. Vijayan had requested an investigation by the NIA as it would be easy to manipulate records in the case as all the officers deputed to NIA were Kerala cadre officers. That was now proved with the NIA seizing the phone gifted by Mr. Sivasankar and not including it in the seizure mahazar.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition filed by Swapna seeking to quash the conspiracy cases registered against her by the State police. She also alleged that, MLA K.T. Jaleel had promised the UAE Consul General all the support of the State in furthering the unauthorised business activities of the Consul General by misusing the diplomatic channel.

Lokayukta will be given more powers, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet, which is scheduled to meet on Friday, will discuss issues related to strengthening of the Karnataka Lokayukta by giving more powers to it, said Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar.

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government allegedly reduced the powers of the anti-corruption watchdog by establishing a separate Anti-Corruption Bureau. Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Kumar said the subject related to giving more teeth to the Lokayukta would be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on Friday.

6 fishermen arrested, boat seized by Sri Lankan Navy

They have been detained in Talaimannar

L. SRIKRISHNA
RAMESWARAM

The Sri Lankan Navy on Wednesday arrested six fishermen from Rameswaram on various charges, including the violation of the International Maritime Boundary Line.

Fisheries Department officials said they had issued 539 tokens at the Rameswaram jetty at 3 p.m. on Wednesday. Around 3,000 fishermen had ventured into the Palk Strait for fishing.

Around 9.30 p.m, the Sri Lankan naval personnel arrested the six fishermen for poaching.The fishermen were identified as Balamuguran, 45, K. Arjunan, 23, Antony, 38, G. Madugu Pichai, 45, K. Thangapandi, 55, and Raja, 21.

Fishermen habitations in Rameswaram, Thangachimadam and Mandapam were shocked on hearing the news of the arrests.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, fishermen leader Jesu Raja said at a time when Sri Lanka was in a major economic crisis, India helped the country by sending essential goods. Over 100 persons from Sri Lanka had reached Dhanushkodi, seeking refuge, and the Tamil Nadu government had provided them food, clothing and accommodation. Under such circumstances, it was shocking to hear that the Sri Lankan Navy had arrested six fishermen, he said.

Aranmula regatta back with full fervour

After a few subdued years due to COVID, it is set to take place in a grand manner

STAFF REPORTER
PATHANAMTHITTA

The rhyme and rhythm of *Vanchipattu*, sung by oarsmen in decorated *palliyodams*, are back to create waves of excitement in the Pampa after a two-year hiatus.

With all 52 *palliyodams* set to attend the ritualistic spectacle, the Onam festivities at Aranmula, including its famed *Vallasadya* and *Uthrittathi* boat race, are set to be back with full fervour this year. The event has remained subdued over the last couple of years due the COVID-19 pandemic with restrictions on participation of the boats and the public.

As part of it, a joint team of the Irrigation department, panchayat and the Palliyoda Seva Sangham (PSS) - a body of 52 *palliyodams* (snakeboats) participating in the annual Aranmula water regatta - will soon start inspecting the river ghats to identify sandbanks, temporary bunds and silt deposits that obstruct the movement of the *palliyodams*.

Ritualistic spectacle: The festivities at Aranmula are slated to begin on August 4. • FILE PHOTO

Addressing a meeting in this connection here the other day, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said the event would be held under the watchful eyes of a medical team. Steps will be taken to ensure a smooth passage of the snakeboats through the site where works on a bridge are progressing at Kozhencherry.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Divya S. Iyer said steps would be taken to maintain the water level in the Pampa to ensure a smooth conduct of the boat race. According to Parthasarathy R. Pilllai, secretary of the PSS, about one lakh people are expected to attend the *vallasadya* on Ashtami Rohini day this year.

The festivities at Aranmula are slated to begin with the *Vallasadya* from August 4 onwards. The Aranmula regatta is scheduled on September 11 while the Ashtami Rohini *Vallasdya* falls on August 18. The festivities will draw to a close by October 9.

Actor rape: chargesheet to be filed today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The additional chargesheet in the Kerala actor rape case will be filed before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Angamaly, on Friday.

The Special Investigation Team is expected to file the chargesheet on Friday morning and a report to the Special Court trying the case in the afternoon.

The SIT had to rush through the process of finalising the chargesheet and filing it in the court as the deadline fixed by the Kerala High Court to complete further investigation in the case will expire on the day. The Special Court has scheduled the case to be considered at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Madam President

The election of Droupadi Murmu should lead to more attention on the rights of tribespeople

The election of Droupadi Murmu as India's 15th President is rich in symbolism. In the 75th year of the country's Independence, Ms. Murmu becomes the second woman to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and the first member of a tribal community to do so. Her membership of the Santhal tribe is in focus. She has risen through the ranks in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and has shown a mind of her own during her stint as Governor of Jharkhand. Her election to the highest office of the country comes 101 years after two tribespeople were elected to legislative bodies in colonial India. Founding figures of the Republic were acutely cognisant of the disadvantageous position of the tribespeople and made special provisions such as the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution. Jaipal Singh Munda, sportsman and tribal leader, was a prominent member of the Constituent Assembly who forcefully articulated the fears and hopes of tribespeople. In 2000, two States, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, were formed to give more focused attention to the concentrated tribal population in these regions. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, was passed in 2006. Ms. Murmu's election is a milestone in the journey of tribal empowerment, though she is by no means limited to her identity. It is a moment of pride for India.

For the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this is a moment of political triumph over the Opposition. Paving the way for a tribal woman to succeed a Dalit in the highest office, Mr. Modi has shown yet again his capacity to constantly script invigorating politics by gauging the political aspirations of marginalised communities and enlisting them for Hindutva politics. Ms. Murmu's elevation has elated tribespeople across the country, and this could convert into significant electoral gains for the BJP in the coming days. Her candidacy split the Opposition, as many members of the Shiv Sena and JMM supported her. Tribespeople have high expectations from Ms. Murmu's rise to the top, but that could be realised only if the Modi government backs up its symbolism with substance. This is the right moment to pay attention to the concerns that many tribal activists have been raising – of a systematic erosion of protections accorded to tribals, harassment and suppression by the police, and a general intolerance of the state towards tribal autonomy. Ms. Murmu personally may have limited leeway in championing any political cause, but she has certainly become an inspiration for all disadvantaged sections of society – women, tribals and the poor in general. To make her election more meaningful, state policy too must bend towards justice and fairness to all. Ms. Murmu's election should not be used as a convenient excuse for inaction on countering the wider disempowerment of tribespeople.

Welcome relief

It is not a good sign that the Supreme Court is now the sole forum to protect personal liberty

There is a sense of relief among everyone who values personal liberty and free speech, following the grant of interim bail to Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News. Given that multiple cases were registered for the same alleged offence, most of them based on tweets, personal liberty and freedom of expression were both under threat. In the face of an assertive executive in times of majoritarian nationalism, it has become normal for magistrates to comply with any demand for the police to remand those brought before them to custody and to deny them bail regardless of the merit or lack of it in those cases. In the case of Mr. Zubair, it was quite palpable that he was being hounded by the police acting on complaints manifestly motivated by communal considerations. Apart from the first FIR in Delhi based on a 2018 tweet referencing a scene in a film from the early 1980s, he has been accused of receiving foreign donations without a licence to do so. Further, some obviously trivial and absurd cases of insulting religious feelings based on innocuous tweets have made it quite clear that the investigation is not so much about what he said as about how he could be harassed and hounded to the point of making him leave his vocation of fact-checking and silence his voice. Everyone must, therefore, welcome the judicial pushback from the Supreme Court in seeing through the game plan behind the registration of multiple FIRs at the instance of votaries of Hindutva.

The Bench did not proceed to quash the various cases against Mr. Zubair, but it has ordered the clubbing of all cases and transferring the investigation to the Delhi Police. As a consequence, the Special Investigation Team formed by the Uttar Pradesh Police to initiate a wide-ranging probe against him has been ordered to be disbanded. The virtues of the order are not limited to the grant of relief. In the process, the Bench has recognised that some FIRs are similar in content and that there is an effort to subject him to "endless rounds of proceedings before diverse courts". It has also declined to bar him from tweeting further, noting that no one's voice could be stifled like that when anything said in the public domain was open to scrutiny for possible transgressions of the law. This is a blow for free speech at a time when some courts impose gag orders as part of the conditions for grant of bail. That it needed the country's highest court to grant such relief is a sad commentary on the state of affairs in the country. The overall atmosphere is so vitiated by state-backed majoritarianism that the Supreme Court has become the only forum for protecting personal liberty, while the lower judicial echelons do not seem to be up to the task.

In Pegasus battle, the fight for surveillance reform

The gaps in an intrusive surveillance framework are causing severe harm to India's democratic ideals

ANUSHKA JAIN & KRISHNESH BAPAT

A year has passed since the disclosures about the Pegasus Project revealed the threat to India's democracy. A leading digital news platform reported that the cellphones of at least 300 Indians had been hacked with Pegasus, the spyware from the Israel-based NSO Group; 10 of the cases were confirmed by Amnesty International's Security Lab using forensic analysis. The victims, important members of India's constitutional order, included cabinet Ministers, Opposition leaders, journalists, judges and human rights defenders.

India has been aware of the existence of Pegasus since October 30, 2019 when WhatsApp confirmed that the spyware has been used to exploit a vulnerability in its platform to target activists, academics, journalists and lawyers in India. Since then, NSO has been able to advance its technology, and Pegasus can now infect devices without any action on the user's part. Considering the severity of the threat posed by these disclosures, and the credibility of the evidence which backs them, it is important to examine how each branch of the Indian state has responded, or failed to respond, in protecting the privacy of citizens.

Official apathy, opaqueness

The expectation is that the executive will provide the first response and that government agencies will respond with action given the serious nature of the disclosures. But on July 19, 2021, the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, referring to "press reports of 18th July 2021", refused to directly address the claims made by the Pegasus Project; he stated that the existing legal framework prevents unauthorised surveillance.

On November 28, 2019, the former Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad, had responded similarly to allegations over the use of Pegasus. A report by *The New York Times* of January 31, 2022 contradicted both their statements and stated that 'India has bought Pegasus in 2017 as part of a $2-billion' defence package. The apathy shown by cabinet Ministers has been mirrored by specialised agencies.

In response to disclosures by the Pegasus Project, CERT-IN, the nodal agency, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, that deals with cybersecurity threats, has remained silent. However, WhatsApp's statement in 2019 did compel CERT-In to issue notices to NSO and WhatsApp on November 26, 2019. But the agency has not provided any updates on what has transpired.

Under India's constitutional scheme, the legislature is responsible for holding the executive accountable. However, practice has failed to match principles. When on July 28, 2021, the IT Committee sought to question officials from the IT Ministry and the Home Ministry on Pegasus, members (primarily from the ruling party), according to news reports, abstained as a bloc and prevented a quorum. Previously, on November 19, 2019, those who had been targeted by Pegasus using a vulnerability in WhatsApp, wrote to the IT Committee which even discussed the issue. However, it has not provided any updates on its findings. Separately, in every parliamentary session since the revelations, the Opposition has sought a discussion and a probe. Both demands have been ignored.

Judicial response

When it became evident that no answers were forthcoming from the executive and the legislative branches, the victims turned towards the judiciary to seek redress. Thus, on August 5, 2021, the victims approached the Supreme Court of India where they demonstrated that forensic analysis had found their phones to have been infected.

On October 27, 2021, the Court constituted a technical committee to examine whether the spyware had been used on Indian citizens. Eight months have passed but the

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committee has yet to arrive at any findings. In this period, the committee has been examining the phones of the victims and seeking comments from the public on surveillance reform. On May 20, 2022, it placed an 'interim report' before the Court asking for time to place the final report; this was granted. The case is now listed for the end of July 2022. While the top court is waiting for the technical committee to submit its report, on December 16, 2021 it restrained a Commission of Inquiry (constituted by the Government of West Bengal) from investigating whether the spyware had been used on residents of West Bengal.

No accountability

Perhaps commentators jumped the gun when they made the remark that Pegasus was India's 'Watergate Moment'. In the aftermath of Watergate, the institutional response in the United States held President Richard Nixon and others involved accountable, in which all branches of the state acted to check the abuse of power. But in India, the story continues to persist as one of official stonewalling with no accountability in sight.

Unlike the polity in India, other countries have responded to the Pegasus disclosures. Israel, for example, set up a senior inter-ministerial team to begin an investigation while the Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, said that the government would work to ensure that Pegasus did not fall into the wrong hands. France ordered a series of investigations within a day of the revelations; on September 25, 2021, its cybersecurity agency confirmed that the spyware had been used to target French citizens. On November 3, 2021, the United States added NSO to its 'Entity List for Malicious Cyber Activities', which restricted the ability of U.S. companies to export goods or services to NSO. In the United Kingdom, the spyware company implemented a change to ensure that Pegasus could no longer target U.K. numbers after revelations, in 2021, that Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, had used the spyware to hack the phones of his wife, Princess Haya, and her divorce lawyers, Baroness Fiona Shackleton and Nick Manners, amid an ongoing custody battle.

The lack of accountability has spurred further violations. While the Pegasus victims in India wait for answers, there are documented instances of the advanced spyware being used in India against human rights defenders. Reports by a digital forensics consulting company, Arsenal Consulting (dated February 8, March 27, and June 21, 2021) revealed that two of the 16 accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, Rona Wilson and Surendra Gadling, had been targeted by a commercially available spyware, 'NetWire', for almost two years. The spyware was used to surveil and plant incriminating documents on their devices – documents which now form the basis of the National Investigation Agency's case against them.

The Indian 'surveillance for hire' industry is growing. These firms offer their services to anyone who can pay, following which they proceed to spy on indicated targets by hacking their devices. A Reuters report from June 30, 2022 termed these firms as "Indian cyber mercenaries" who were being used by litigants around the world to sway litigation battles. One such Indian company, BellTroX, was engaged in surveillance-for-hire activities and was one of the several entities Facebook investigated, identified, and removed from its platforms in December 2021. Much like what happened with the Pegasus Project, there has been no official response to both these reports.

Overhaul the laws

An overhaul of surveillance laws is necessary to prevent the indiscriminate monitoring of people and entities by the state and private actors. The Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 which empower the Government to surveil, concentrate surveillance powers in the hands of the executive, and do not contain any independent oversight provisions, judicial or parliamentary. These legislations are from an era before spyware such as Pegasus were developed, and, thus, do not respond to the modern-day surveillance industry.

Unfortunately, legislative proposals by the Union Government for surveillance reform do not exist. The proposed data protection law does not address these concerns despite proposals from members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Instead, the proposed law provides wide exemptions to the Government relating to select agencies from the application of the law; one which might be used to exempt intelligence and other law enforcement agencies. This gap in the surveillance framework has led to severe harm being caused to India's democratic ideals.

Endangered right

The past year has showcased why the need for comprehensive surveillance reform is so urgent. The Freedom House 'Freedom in the World' report – it tracks global trends in political rights and civil liberties – changed India's status from 'free' to 'partly free' in 2021. It has cited the alleged use of Pegasus on Indian citizens as one of the reasons for the downgrade. From targeting activists and journalists for civil and political purposes, to the targeting of litigants for commercial benefits, the surveillance industry is becoming increasingly accessible, and the nature of surveillance, exponentially intrusive. In the absence of immediate and far-reaching surveillance reform, and urgent redress to those who approach authorities against unlawful surveillance, the right to privacy may soon become obsolete.

Anushka Jain is the Associate Policy Counsel (Surveillance and Transparency) and Krishnesh Bapat is the Associate Litigation Counsel at the Internet Freedom Foundation. Mr. Bapat is representing victims of Pegasus in proceedings before the Supreme Court of India

'Advantage New Delhi' in Sri Lanka's India lifeline

There is much potential in the humanitarian aid link now to deepen trade and investment linkages

GANESHAN WIGNARAJA

Ranil Wickremesinghe's election as the President of Sri Lanka in a crucial Parliament vote on July 20, 2022, gives India an opportunity to take the lead in the foreign aid game in its neighbourhood. Sri Lanka has been facing economic turbulence since its pre-emptive default on its foreign debt obligations in mid-April this year – the mass protests in its wake eventually forcing the former President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to flee the country on July 12.

Deepening woes

Following the debt default and a shortage of dollars, the Sri Lankan economy is experiencing stagflation. Inflation has spiralled to over 50%, translating into higher food and fuel prices. Many families are surviving on one meal a day. The economy could contract by at least 6% in 2022. Some three-quarter of a million people are becoming the 'new poor'. Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948 is due to a tepid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict shock and economic mismanagement under the administration of the Rajapaksas.

Sri Lanka is also facing challenges in getting foreign aid, as 60% of the world's poorest countries are also experiencing debt distress; further, the prospect of a second global recession in three years could dampen enthusiasm to support Sri Lanka.

There are questions by some on why taxpayers in another country should bail out a failed economy such as Sri Lanka, when the perception is that Sri Lanka's debt default is largely one of its own making – the result of mismanagement and corruption.

Opportunity for India

India was the first responder to Sri Lanka's desperate calls for foreign aid to help tackle its crippling debt and economic crisis. India has been motivated by the unfolding humanitarian crisis affecting the Sri Lankan people and the political pressure from South India for Indian intervention. In the first six months of 2022, Indian aid worth $3.8 billion has flowed to Sri Lanka through loans, swaps and grants. This is India's largest bilateral aid programme in recent times.

Supporting Sri Lanka could be in India's best interests. Stabilising Sri Lanka's economy could prove to be a major win for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'neighbourhood-first' policy. Moreover, once the Sri Lankan economy stabilises, India can deepen its trade

AFP

and investment linkages with Sri Lanka, transcending the current humanitarian aid relationship. This could spur regional integration and prosperity. On the other hand, an unstable Sri Lankan economy could pose security risks to India and lead to a flood of refugees across the Palk Strait. This is an opportunity for India to strengthen bilateral and regional partnerships.

Dimensions to Chinese aid

In recent years, China has emerged as a major partner for Sri Lanka, especially for infrastructure projects, many of which are under scrutiny now. This provides an opportunity for India to upscale its aid and cement its first mover advantage over China by leading an aid consortium for Sri Lanka, working closely with other friendly countries such as the United States, Japan and the European Union as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Back of the envelope calculations suggest that Sri Lanka would require financing that falls between $20 billion to $25 billion over the next three years to ensure essential imports of food, medicine and fuel for its people and help in stabilising the economy.

Despite gaining benefits from commercial loans for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in Sri Lanka which has fuelled a 'debt trap' narrative, China faces a dilemma in bailing out Sri Lanka. China worries that unilaterally restructuring Sri Lanka's debt or giving it moratoria would set a new precedent in its lending practices, leading to a queue of similarly distressed countries seeking debt relief from Beijing. Furthermore, China, which is a G2 economy, and wanting to challenge the U.S., does not want its reputation to be tarnished by bailing out a floundering economy.

Steps to take

There are five important items in the in-tray of the new administration under President Wickremesinghe.

The government must show that it is serious about stabilising the economy by concluding talks on an IMF programme which will increase taxes and utility prices to raise revenue and increase interest rates to control inflation while preserving social welfare expenditures to protect the poor.

It has to implement structural reforms to make the economy more open to trade and investment and allow market forces to determine resource allocation. This means reducing barriers to trade and investment, cutting red tape hampering business and privatising loss-making state-owned enterprises such as Sri Lankan Airlines and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

It has to build national consensus on implementing the IMF programme and reforms by explaining that this is the only solution to the crisis.

It has to restore the rule of law and enforce strong anti-corruption policies (including asset declarations for all parliamentarians and a strong anti-corruption office supported by the United Nations). Later, the executive presidency should be abolished.

It has to reset foreign policy towards a more neutral direction and away from the pro-China stance of the Rajapaksas.

With political will and the right set of policies, Sri Lanka stands a sporting chance of achieving some economic normalcy within the next three years. India stands to gain by supporting Sri Lanka in its hour of need. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Ganeshan Wignaraja is Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore, and former Director of Research of the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Sri Lankan President

That Ranil Wickremesinghe has been elected President of crisis-hit Sri Lanka is an affront to the people. But the agitators must accept the situation as a *fait accompli* and allow the incumbent to function and try to bring the economy back on track. A confrontational attitude at this crucial stage may spell greater trouble for the battered country.

K. NEHRU PATNAIK,
Visakhapatnam

▪ Mr. Wickremesinghe's election indicates that the people's wishes have been ignored again. It is bound to be difficult for him to rule. The island-nation has a chance only when there is understanding between the people and administrators.

P. CHERITH REDDI,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Power of arrest

The Mohammed Zubair episode has demonstrated how easy it is for the establishment of the day to make those opposed to its ideology and politics pay. When those accused of heinous crimes are moving freely, it is almost a travesty of justice when somebody like Mr. Zubair has to fight innumerable court battles just because of a tweet. The due process of law has been abused in other cases too. Civil society as well as the media have not protested strongly enough at this blatant misuse of power.

ANTHONY HENRIQUES,
Mumbai

NEET and frisking

Allegations and complaints that several female candidates who appeared for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) were forced to remove their innerwear before entering an exam centre have caused an uproar in Kerala. Charges have been brought against those involved. Similar incidents have occurred in the State in the past too. A few teachers were suspended at that time. While it is true that NEET stipulates a certain dress code and a national-level entrance examination must be conducted in a strict way, the authorities must understand that the candidates are human beings. Scoring well in NEET is not easy and candidates must feel at ease during the exam. Although several complaints have been made about the way NEET is conducted, no changes seem to have been made.

VENU G.S.,
Kollam, Kerala

Troubled times

It is unfortunate that a doping scandal has returned to haunt Indian athletics, with two top athletes failing a dope test.
The athletes in question have not covered themselves in glory. With some big names failing dope tests in the last 12 months, this has been an inglorious phase for Indian athletics.

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,
Bengaluru

What can the world do to help Sri Lanka?

PARLEY

Sri Lanka needs all its creditors to come together and give it some breathing space

On July 20, acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected the President of Sri Lanka. The Government of India, which held an all-party meeting on the crisis in the island nation, said that "fiscal prudence and responsible governance" are the lessons to be learnt from the situation in Sri Lanka and that there should not be a "culture of freebies". India promised to be supportive of Sri Lanka, which is struggling to deal with the devastation caused by the economic crisis. In such a scenario, what must the world, and India in particular, do to help Sri Lanka? Nirupama Rao and D. Subbarao discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Suhasini Haidar**. *Edited excerpts:*

REUTERS

How predictable was the crisis that came to a head in April 2022 with the protests, and how much of the blame lies with the Rajapaksas who have now been pushed out of power?

Nirupama Rao: At the end of the civil war [with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in 2009, Sri Lanka had to go to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) for support. Successive governments can be charged with economic mismanagement – fiscal and budgetary – but you can implicate the Gotabaya Rajapaksa presidency with a lot of missteps that led the country to where it is now, staring over the economic precipice. What you see now is a perfect storm – economic mismanagement over the years and political malfeasance, which you can lay at the door of the Rajapaksas.

D. Subbarao: The crisis is a consequence of the twin deficit problem: an unsustainable current account deficit and an unsustainable fiscal deficit, some of which they [the Rajapaksas] were not responsible for. Tourism collapsed starting with the Easter bombings, then the pandemic, and remittances from migrant workers declined, again because of the pandemic. The import bill rose because of the war on Ukraine and the spike in oil prices.

On the domestic front, however, the fiscal crisis is completely homemade. The Rajapaksa government gave in to unaffordable populism by cutting taxes. They cut the value added tax by half, eliminated capital gains tax, made expenditure commitments on subsidies that they couldn't afford, and so debt ballooned. The Rajapaksa government was responsible for three specific things: one, unaffordable populism; two, erratic economic management – for example, the abrupt shift to organic farming; and three, it did not go to the IMF early enough. If it had approached the IMF, say, six months ago, the crisis would not have been as intense.

Do you think global powers could have moved in sooner to try and help at least with the debt repayment deferrals rather than wait for the crisis to have reached the level it has?

DS: Sri Lanka's crisis was so deep that no country by itself could have averted it. And if a country had moved in by itself to solve the problem, it would have taken on more burden without actually solving the crisis. A crisis like this requires IMF assistance, and for other countries to come on board in support of the IMF programme. Take, for example, bilateral debt that Sri Lanka owes to countries such as Japan, China, India. For these countries to reduce or restructure their debt, they will require an IMF programme. So, what countries can do bilaterally is provide a bridge loan, which is what India has done, but the structured solution has to come through the IMF.

NR: What precipitated the crisis was the big tax holiday that Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa gave soon after he assumed office. The balance of payments suffered a great amount of pressure, especially on Sri Lanka's currency, after COVID. They should have allowed the currency to depreciate, but they spent $5 billion to $6 billion of precious foreign exchange to keep the currency afloat. The advice by the governor of the central bank was a mix of hubris and incompetence and unwillingness to go to the IMF. The President knew nothing about the economy. They followed nationalist economic policies. They kept borrowing from the commercial market. They were not seeking any assistance from the IMF. In fact, they came to India at the end of last year, asking India to reschedule the debt repayment. We had a portfolio of debt of under $1 billion. We wondered why they were coming to us; it was a well-managed portfolio. But they said India is an important partner and that's why they were coming here. India's help has been unprecedented. No other country has really come to Sri Lanka's rescue.

Do you think India's assistance to Sri Lanka of about $3.8 billion was adequate and timely? How do you evaluate China's role, which owns at least 10% of Sri Lankan debt?

DS: The Indian Government by itself cannot solve Sri Lanka's problem. Sri Lanka needs everybody who it owes debt to – the IMF, the World Bank, the ADB (Asian Development Bank) and all other partners – to come together and give it some breathing space. That's what India tried to provide. India could not have restructured all its loans or given all the money that Sri Lanka wanted. India gave aid on time and in sufficient quantity for Sri Lanka to get some breathing space in order to approach the IMF and reach an arrangement with the IMF.

On China's involvement, Sri Lanka's debt problem has two egregious sins. One is over-dependence on one country for a bilateral partner, China. The second is the sovereign borrowing in a foreign currency. Given that many of these loans went into infrastructure projects that have taken too long or have been underutilised, debt has piled up, but there are no revenues to repay for it. To that extent, China is responsible for loading on debt, irresponsible lending, and now responsible for not coming soon enough to Sri Lanka's aid.

> **Maybe the thrust in India should be to look at more regionalising factors when it comes to trade and whether regionalisation of the Indian rupee can be of help to us and our neighbours.**
>
> NIRUPAMA RAO

NR: India's help has been unprecedented – other countries have come up with very small amounts of humanitarian assistance at the very most. You may argue that countries like Japan could do more. But if you see the record of the Rajapaksa government, it was very cavalier and churlish in its treatment of Japan over the last few years, by cancelling projects. Japan has every reason to be upset about the way the relationship with Sri Lanka has developed over the last few years.

You mentioned 10% of Sri Lanka's debt being held by China, but that figure is understated. There's much more hidden debt held by Chinese entities. Meanwhile, returns on Chinese projects have not added much value to the economy. The 99-year lease of the Hambantota Port was concluded without settling the loans owed to China, and now they are incurring recurring expenditure for running the port. So, that has been a white elephant. The Chinese want more control in Sri Lanka, they want an FTA (Free Trade Agreement), but Chinese goods already flood the market.

Are there other alternatives to the IMF that India should be tapping or helping Sri Lanka to tap? Should India now be looking to use its own resources in a regional fashion and can India even do that?

DS: Well, we've been struggling with this question for the last 25 years. Countries around the world have been trying to find an alternative to the IMF, because of the concern that IMF conditionality is too harsh and does not result in long-term structural adjustment. But nothing has proved to be an adequate substitute for the IMF – neither bilateral arrangements nor the regional ones. The fact is that if a country is under an IMF programme, external investors, external creditors become confident that they can go back into the country. And that's why I keep saying that Sri Lanka should have gone to the IMF sooner so that that confidence levels would not have sunk.

NR: Sri Lanka has to go to the IMF, but even that has problems. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a strong case for Sri Lanka to be classified temporarily as a low-income country so that it can get assistance on a more emergency basis from the IMF and on the lines of what has been provided to Ukraine. But that has not happened. Sri Lanka has not been able to reach a staff-level agreement with the IMF. It has to legislate decisions on the taxation and revenue side, but it is not able to move in Parliament on that front, given the political crisis. Even the fundamental assessment of debt sustainability has not been reached with the IMF.

What is worrying is that [in this crisis], a fertile ground could be provided for extremist ideologies. The capacity of the country to ensure its maritime security will also suffer and there is a scenario of drugs and arms smuggling staring us in the face. India has to consider how far it can go to help Sri Lanka; I don't know if the government has taken that decision yet. But we must remember that economic and security factors are interlinked. Maybe the thrust in India should be to look at more regionalising factors when it comes to trade and whether regionalisation of the Indian rupee can be of help to us and our neighbours.

To what extent is the situation in Sri Lanka comparable to that in Indian States, if not the entire economy? External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's presentation to parliamentarians seemed to indicate worry about a "spillover" effect.

DS: The fact is fiscal profligacy and fiscal irresponsibility will invariably end in tears. Some Indian States are borrowing money and using it on freebies, which do not add to productivity or future economic activity or production capacity, but add to current consumption. So, they do not support long-term growth. But beyond that, States in India cannot be compared to Sri Lanka because Sri Lanka is an independent economic entity whereas the States in India are part of a national economic entity. States in India do not have their own balance of payments, they do not have debt denominated in external currency like Sri Lanka. Second, Sri Lanka can deal with domestic debt by printing currency, as it did, but States in India cannot do that. So, it's important for us, as the Prime Minister said, to get this into public conversation about whether States and even the Centre should continue to spend money like this on transfer payments and freebies instead of spending on infrastructure that supports long-term growth and employment generation. I don't believe the Centre and the States should talk about these decisions in an adversarial manner, but agree on some norms. The Supreme Court has also said there must be some norms about how much can be spent on freebies. Politicians might take umbrage, but we must get it right.

Equally, the worries come from not just India but the rest of the neighbourhood. How can India prepare for crises in the rest of South Asia?

DS: A lot has been written about the economic crisis facing Pakistan and Nepal. We should be looking hard at Nepal because Nepal is tied to us in many ways. But one redeeming factor is that Nepal's currency is pegged to ours and its trade being landlocked, it is completely dependent on India. The issue of regionalisation of the Indian rupee should be looked at more closely. If we apply the regionalisation of our rupee, make it possible for us to trade in rupees with Sri Lanka, it will help Sri Lanka save on hard currency. The digital interface payments that we have, like BHIM, can be used in countries in the neighbourhood such as Nepal and Bhutan. With Sri Lanka, those discussions have not been able to go forward.

Nirupama Rao
is former Foreign Secretary

D. Subbarao
is former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

NOTEBOOK

Songs of a summer night

Recalling anecdotes from an interview conducted with Bhupinder Singh over 10 years ago

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

On a starless summer night at Kozhikode beach in Kerala, Bhupinder Singh's voice wafted across, as refreshing and soothing as the gentle breeze from the sea.

Ya Garmiyon Ki Raat Jo Purvaayaiaan *Chale/ Thandi Safed Chaadaron Pe Jaage Der Tak/Taaron Ko Dekhte Te Rahe Chchat Par Pade Huye/ Dil Dhoondta Hai Phir Wohi Fursat Ke Raat Din* (Or on those summer nights with the gentle breeze/ Staying up late on the cool white linens/ Gazing at the stars, lying on the terrace/ The heart searches yet again for those days and nights of leisure).

After playing that gem of a song from the 1975 film *Mausam* on my music system and phone frequently for years, it was quite an experience listening to Singh sing it live. Later that night, I wrote about the show for the city page of this newspaper.

There was a large crowd for the show, on the opening day of the Malabar Mahotsavam, a festival of music and dance that used to be the highlight of the cultural calendar of north Kerala. Singh had also rendered his other popular songs like *Ek Akela Is Shaher Mein* (*Gharaonda*), *Kisi Nazar Ko Tera Intazaar* (*Aitbaar*), *Naam Gum Jaayega* (*Kinara*), *Huzoor Is Kadar Bhi* (*Masoom*) and *Beeti Na Bitai Raina* (*Parichay*).

Earlier that day, I had met him for an interview at his room at the Taj hotel, not far from the beach. With him was his wife and singer Mitali, who also sang at the show. Singh was very friendly. He was clearly happy to speak about all the timeless he songs he had sung. He spoke at length about *Dil Dhoondta Hai* (*Mausam*). It is not just his biggest hit but one of Indian cinema's greatest songs of all time. Singh said it was the lyricist Gulzar who insisted that he sing *Dil Dhoondta Hai*. And it was composer Madan Mohan who had asked him to go to Mumbai from his home in Delhi. Singh was in South Africa when *Mausam* released; he knew the song had become a hit when a group of youngsters came up to him chanting *Dil Dhoondta Hai*.

Madan Mohan, he said, composed as many as eight tunes for the song. One of those were used later for the song *Tere Liye* (*Veer-Zaara*) long after the composer's death. Listening to Singh singing *Dil Dhoondta Hai* in the tune of *Tere Liye* was a strange experience. He said he wished he had sung a song for *Veer-Zaara*. That was his only regret as a playback singer.

He also shared several anecdotes with me, which are still fresh in my memory some 10 years after that interview. He said once, while travelling with Madan Mohan to Ladakh, the composer was excited to hear the song *Aap Ki Nazron Ne Samjha* (*Anpadh*) being played on the radio somewhere in Kashmir. "Look they are playing my song!" he told Singh. That incident reminded me of the fact that Madan Mohan, the genius who gave Bollywood some of its sweetest melodies, most of them rendered by Lata Mangeshkar, did not receive the recognition he deserved during his lifetime.

Singh also talked about his other gift, as a guitarist. The music director Naushad had once called him the greatest guitarist of Indian cinema. Singh said he had focussed on playing the guitar because he wanted to stay on in Mumbai; there wasn't enough work for him as a singer despite his debut song, *Hoke Majboor*, for the 1964 film *Haqeeqat*, becoming a hit. He spoke of playing the guitar for big hits like *Dum Maro Dum* (*Hare Rama Hare Krishna*), *Chura Liya* (*Yaadon Ki Baraat*) and *Mehbooba* (*Sholay*), all composed by his friend R.D. Burman. For one of the songs he sang for Burman, *Ek Hi Khwab* (*Kinara*), he had played the guitar too.

When I asked him about today's composers and singers, he spoke highly of A.R. Rahman and Hariharan. The memories of talking to him and then listening to him sing on that summer night on the beach come back to me while writing this piece, a few days after his death at the age of 82.

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DATA POINT

Disparity in doctorate admissions at IITs

In 2021, eight departments of IIT Delhi received 637 eligible PhD applications from SC/ST/OBC students. None of them were admitted. All the 53 PhD seats in these programmes went to students from the General Category (UR:Unreserved) or Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota who had sent in 1,362 applications. Such disparities were witnessed across at least nine IITs of the 23 analysed. In IIT Kharagpur, the acceptance rate among General Category students was 11.9%, which is higher than the 3.2% seen among ST students. In IIT Delhi, 52.7% of applicants were from the General Category and they formed 70.5% of the admissions. By **Rebecca Rose Varghese** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

1. Acceptance rate | The table lists the applications received for various PhD programmes across communities in 2021 and their acceptance rates (applications admitted/received in %)

	Applications received					Acceptance rate (%)				
IIT	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Kharagpur	3,609	966	155	1,769	471	**11.9**	7.8	3.2	8.0	7.6
Indore	1,114	324	61	864	340	**9.3**	2.8	4.9	4.5	2.4
Delhi	9,879	2,279	481	4,560	1,555	**4.7**	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.1
Gandhinagar	2,876	593	143	1,562	593	**3.3**	0.7	1.4	1.3	1.2
Tirupati	1,202	416	93	942	200	**3.1**	0.2	**0.0**	2.3	1.0
Mandi	2,915	716	140	1,974	1,024	**2.3**	1.0	**0.0**	1.0	1.2
Bhubaneswar	2,803	678	149	1,673	544	**1.6**	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.1
Bhilai	810	207	30	631	226	1.1	**0.0**	**0.0**	1.9	0.9
Goa	458	225	31	362	96	1.1	1.8	**0.0**	1.4	1.0

- The acceptance rate in Indore stood at 9.3% for students from historically privileged castes (General Category). It fell to 4.5% and 4.9% for OBC and ST students, respectively, and further down to just 2.8% for SCs
- In Tirupati, Mandi, Bhilai and Goa, no ST student was admitted despite applications crossing hundreds in some cases. A similar trend was observed in Bhilai among SC students

2. Two ratios | The table lists the PhD applications from a community as a % of total applications received and the admitted PhD applications from a community as a % of total admissions in 2021

	% among applied					% among admitted				
IIT	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Kharagpur	51.8	13.9	2.2	25.4	6.8	62.6	10.9	0.7	20.5	5.2
Indore	41.2	12	2.3	32	12.6	63.8	5.5	1.8	23.9	4.9
Delhi	52.7	12.2	2.6	24.3	8.3	70.5	5.8	1.4	17.3	5
Gandhinagar	49.9	10.3	2.5	27.1	10.3	74.4	3.1	1.6	15.5	5.4
Tirupati	42.1	14.6	3.3	33	7	59.7	1.6	0	35.5	3.2
Mandi	43.1	10.6	2.1	29.2	15.1	63.2	6.6	0	18.9	11.3
Bhubaneswar	47.9	11.6	2.5	28.6	9.3	58.7	8	1.3	24	8
Bhilai	42.5	10.9	1.6	33.1	11.9	39.1	0	0	52.2	8.7
Goa	39.1	19.2	2.6	30.9	8.2	33.3	26.7	0	33.3	6.7

- In IIT Indore, while applications from the General Category formed only 41.2% of the total applications, the community formed 63.8% of those admitted. Applications from the SC community were 12% and only 5.5% of admissions were from the community
- In Bhilai, 10.9% of the applications were from the SC community and they formed 0% of the admissions
- In all the IITs chosen, the % of ST among admissions was fewer than % of STs among applications
- In all the IITs chosen, except Bhilai and Goa, the % of UR among admissions was higher than % of UR among applications

3. Zero admissions | The tables list select departments under various IITs which received a considerable number of **eligible applications (No.)** from the SC/ST/OBC categories but failed to admit even one applicant. IIT Delhi, for instance, did not admit any applicant from the ST category under the Dept. of Electrical Engineering despite receiving 34 applications. The university did not admit even one PhD candidate from the SC and OBC communities in the Biochemical Engineering & Biotech department despite receiving 104 and 171 applications, respectively

Zero ST admissions

IIT	Department	No.
Mandi	Basic Sciences	73
Bhubaneswar	Basic Sciences	49
Mandi	Engineering	41
Hyderabad	Electrical	38
Delhi	Electrical	34
Tirupati	Electrical	33
Madras	Physics	31
Roorkee	Physics	30

Zero SC admissions

IIT	Department	No.
Mandi	Basic Sciences	369
Bombay	Biosciences & Bioengg.	157
Hyderabad	Electrical	135
Tirupati	Electrical	123
Tirupati	Mechanical	108
Delhi	Biochemical engg. & Biotech.	104

Zero OBC admissions

IIT	Department	No.
Palakad	Electrical	246
Hyderabad	Mathematics	225
Gandhi-nagar	Mechanical	224
Bombay	Mathematics	184
Delhi	Biochemical engg. & Biotech.	171
Goa	Mechanical	128
Varanasi	Materials Science	128
Tirupati	Computer Science	127
Hyderabad	Computer Science	121

Source: Lok Sabha unstarred question number 106 raised by S. Venkatesan, CPI(M) MP from the Madurai constituency. With inputs from **Pon Vasanth B.A.**

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1972

Mysore to be renamed Karnataka

Bangalore, July 21: Decks have been cleared for renaming Mysore as Karnataka. The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, is now due to come forward with an official resolution to rename the State following to-day's party mandate. The Congress Legislature Party, at its meeting here adopted, by show of hands, the proposition that the State be renamed "Karnataka". According to party circles, 89 members of the 131 present (total membership is 190) raised their hands in support. Among the Ministers, Mr. N. Hutchmasty Gowda, Revenue Minister, is understood to have registered his vote against "Karnataka" and termed his dissent as a fulfilment of duty. His contention was that the name "Mysore" should have been retained in keeping with the understanding reached at the time of the birth of the new State in November 1956. Two other propositions, one seeking that the State be renamed "Mysore-Karnataka" and the other "Kannada Nadu" are understood to have fallen through with only 22 and nine votes, respectively, in their favour. Eleven reporters are reported to have remained neutral. The Chief Minister is understood to have lent his support for "Karnataka." The controversial issue of renaming the State had been figuring in almost every session of the State Legislature since the State's reorganisation in 1956. But because of the sentiment and passion it generated and the sharp division of views as between the advocates of the retention of the present name and those favouring "Karnataka" no decision could be taken so far.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1922

Malabar trials

Calicut, July 19: Mr. H.B. Jackson, M.A., I.C.S., Special Judge, resumed to-day the hearing of the case in which four members of the well known Koyappathoday family were charged with waging war against the King and murder and mischief by fire, details of which have already been reported. Mr. A.V. Govinda Menon, Public Prosecutor, examined Velu as the last witness for the prosecution in this case. The next witness examined was Kandugon. Mr. Nugent Grant then commenced the cross examination of prosecution witnesses. Mr. Grant did not want to examine cross witnesses in order. He submitted to the Court that he would pick them out in respect of certain statements given by them which were in the file in the office of the District Magistrate. His Honour consented to it.

FROM PAGE ONE

Droupadi Murmu elected 15th President of India

She remained an MLA till 2009, representing Rairangpur in Odisha, a town that burst into celebrations since her name was announced as a candidate for the post of President of India. She holds the record of being the only Governor of Jharkhand till date to complete a full tenure, and was known to intervene in stopping amendments to the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act that was being brought in by the BJP government of Raghubar Das, which involved changing land use in tribal areas.

Congratulatory messages poured out as her victory was assured, with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda also going in person to greet Ms. Murmu. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said Ms. Murmu "has always given voice to the hopes and aspirations of the people, understood their grievances and resolved them."

Assam CM's tweet

Ms. Murmu's lead was substantial from the first round itself when votes of all MPs were counted, but by the third round, her unassailable lead had made it quite clear that there had been much cross-voting in her favour across party lines. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in fact tweeted that in Assam, as many as 22 non-NDA MLAs had voted in favour of Ms. Murmu.

"Smt. Droupadi Murmu polled 104 votes compared to NDA's original strength of 79 in the 126-member Assam Assembly. 2 Absent. My heartfelt gratitude to the people of Assam for reposing their faith in the NDA's presidential candidate," he said.

Election managers for the ruling coalition tracking the counting said that as many as 17 MPs and 126 MLAs had voted across party lines for Ms. Murmu. Apart from the 22 MLAs in Assam, the NDA claimed that Bihar saw six MLAs cross-vote, Gujarat saw 10, Jharkhand also saw 10 opposition MLAs vote in favour of her. Madhya Pradesh saw 19 MLAs cross-vote, while 16 did so in Maharashtra.

The massive cross-voting showed a larger scatter in the Opposition ranks over these polls, which had also seen a steady depletion in its ranks since the candidature of Ms. Murmu was announced.

SC to await Varanasi judge's decision in Gyanvapi case

Bench did not act on plea of mosque caretakers Anjuman Intejamia Masjid

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday did not act on a plea made by caretakers of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi to first decide the correctness of a local court's *ex parte* order to appoint an advocate commissioner, whose survey paved the way for the reported finding of a *shivling* and sealing of a part of the mosque premises.

A Special Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud instead chose to wait for the decision of the Varanasi District judge on an application filed by the caretakers, Anjuman Intejamia Masjid, challenging the very maintainability of a civil suit filed by several Hindu women for declaration of their right to worship Maa Shringar Gauri and other "visible and invisible deities" within the mosque premises. It was this suit that had initially triggered a series of orders by a civil judge, including the inspection of the mosque premises.

Hindu women plaintiffs accompanied by their advocates on their way to court for the hearing. •FILE PHOTO

The Bench said that in case the district judge rules in favour of the Anjuman, the civil suit of the Hindu women would itself "fall", leaving the advocate commissioner's work redundant. On the other hand, if the district court upholds the suit, the caretakers could pursue other remedies in law.

'Domino effect'

During the hearing, Anjuman's lawyer, senior advocate Huzefa Ahamadi indicated there were several other cases pending in various courts involving religious places of worship. Advocate Commissioners could be appointed in these cases in the same way it was done in the Gyanvapi case. He said the Supreme Court ought to step in to prevent such a "domino effect".

"I am not concerned only about this case. I am concerned about other cases as well. My Lords will have to go into the correctness of the order appointing the advocate commissioner. In a case like this, sensitivities are involved, particular places of worship are involved... Commissions are appointed and reports are created to change perceptions and alter the *status quo*... You have to examine the correctness of the order appointing the commissioner in this case. All the rest that happened on the ground is like fruit from a poison tree," Mr. Ahamadi submitted. The civil judge had appointed the advocate commissioner in April without hearing the caretakers. The Allahabad High Court had subsequently dismissed their apprehensions about the fallout of the survey.

'Status quo altered'

Recounting how the High Court had rejected their fears, Mr. Ahamadi said "my apprehensions before the High Court were wished away by the judge who said the order for the survey was innocuous... But see what it has resulted in... it has altered the *status quo* that has been in existence for hundreds of years... please allow me to make my case against the appointment of the advocate commissioner".

But the apex court indicated that the caretakers' remedy lay in the district court.

Hindu side concludes submissions in court

Masjid panel set to rebut arguments

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

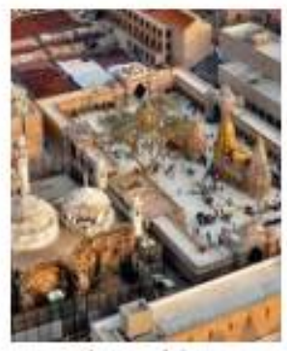
In the ongoing Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute, lead plaintiff Rakhi Singh on Thursday concluded submissions opposing the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's application challenging the maintainability of their suit.

This brought to close the Hindu side's arguments supporting the maintainability of their suit before Varanasi district judge A.K. Vishvesha, who is currently hearing the matter.

Advocate Shivam Gaur, one of the lawyers appearing for Ms. Singh, said, "We reiterated our arguments on why the masjid panel's application does not stand and submitted that our suit in the case should be tried."

Following this, the masjid panel's lawyers sought time to file their rejoinder. The next hearing is on July 25, when the masjid panel will defend their position on why the suit should be dismissed.

The suit referred to is the one filed by Ms. Singh and four other women, seeking the right to pray at a Hindu shrine adjacent to the Gyanvapi mosque premises all year round.



An aerial view of the Gyanvapi mosque, left, and the Kashi Viswanath temple in Varanasi.

Advocates Vishnu Shankar Jain, his father Hari Shankar Jain and their team are representing four other women plaintiffs in the suit. They had previously submitted their position on the masjid panel's application under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The masjid panel had argued before the district court that the suit is not maintainable because special laws such as the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf Act bar the suit.

Gunawardena likely to be named Sri Lanka PM

Following a party leaders' meeting on Thursday, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said in a tweet: "Met with President @RW_UNP [Ranil Wickremesinghe] at the party leaders' meeting today. Had a cordial and frank exchange of ideas. Reiterated the Opposition's determination to provide constructive support to avert misery and disaster." The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force) Leader said he proposed to strengthen the committee system in Parliament to achieve national consensus "rather than dishing out ministerial portfolios to political opportunists resulting in a drain of scarce national resources."

'No invitation yet'

SJB lawmaker Eran Wickramaratne said the party has received no "formal invitation" so far, to be part of the government, following President Wickremesinghe's open invitation to all parties in Parliament.

"We will hold talks when that happens. Meanwhile, we will continue participating in parliamentary processes constructively," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Wickremesinghe, who served as Prime Minister – his sixth stint – since May and as Acting President more recently, rose to Presidency winning a key parliamentary vote on Wednesday, after mass protests dislodged Gotabaya Rajapaksa from the country's highest office last week. He fled the island and is now in Singapore, where he has been granted a 14-day short-term visit pass, according to the city-state's immigration authorities.

Chandrika wishes Ranil

Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga wished Mr. Wickremesinghe "good luck and success", as he takes over the reins of the country "at a moment when it is besieged with unprecedented challenges." "I have no doubt President Wickremesinghe will remember that this change was made entirely possible by the extraordinary activism of the young civil activists of our country, with the full support of a vast majority of citizens," she said in a message posted on Facebook, underscoring the need for "visionary leaders with far sightedness and generosity of heart."

"Their [citizens'] strident call is for a regime that governs in the people's interest and not its own, where the rule of law, honesty, and good governance will reign supreme," Ms. Kumaratunga said. She added that it would be a "difficult task".

Uddhav camp questions Speaker's decision

MP Vinayak Raut says, his side will move SC over the 'partisan attitude' of the Lok Sabha Secretariat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Even as the two rival Shiv Sena factions slug it out in the Supreme Court over their respective disqualification pleas against each other, Sena MP and Uddhav Thackeray loyalist Vinayak Raut on Thursday questioned the "unseemly haste" on the part of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in approving rebel MP Rahul Shewale as the party's new floor leader in the Lower House.

Mr. Raut, who was appointed by Mr. Thackeray as the Sena's group leader in the Lok Sabha, said that the Thackeray camp planned to move the Supreme Court over the "partisan attitude" displayed by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Mr. Birla in endorsing Mr. Shewale, who has been named by the Eknath Shinde-led rebel camp as the new group leader.

On July 19, the Sena's Lok Sabha group had split after 12 of the 19 Sena Lok Sabha MPs moved over to the Shinde rebel camp, which named Mumbai South-Central MP Rahul Shewale as new Sena group leader in the Lok Sabha in lieu of Mr. Raut.

"We cannot understand the attitude of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Speaker. We have been denied natural justice on the basis that group leaders are nominated by the party head, who happens to be Uddhav Thackeray in this case... group leaders are not decided on the basis of who has more numbers [referring to the rebel Shinde camp]. We will move the Supreme Court to question why due process was not followed by the Lok Sabha Secretariat," Mr. Raut said, speaking in New Delhi.

Shiv Sena MP Rahul Shewale and Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde at a press conference in New Delhi. •PTI

Stating that the Speaker had chosen to ignore two letters in the past few days submitted by the Thackeray camp, Mr. Raut said that on July 18, they had visited Mr. Birla with a plea that he [Mr.Raut] was the officially appointed leader of the Sena's parliamentary party and urged the Speaker not to entertain any representation from the breakaway Shinde faction.

"We had also submitted a letter in this regard on July 19.However, it appears that the Speaker paid no heed to this as well," Mr. Raut said.

Meanwhile, in a bid to win over the remaining MPs in the Uddhav Thackeray camp, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited ailing senior Sena leader Gajanan Kirtikar at the latter's residence.

IN BRIEF

'No member from Punjab on Centre's MSP panel'

NEW DELHI
The committee on minimum support price (MSP) should be scrapped and reconstituted by including farmers' representatives from Punjab, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) member Harsimrat Kaur Badal said in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Sharad Pawar dissolves NCP departments

PUNE
With Eknath Shinde's rebellion splitting the Shiv Sena and altering political equations in Maharashtra, the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has dissolved its departments. According to sources, the object of the exercise is to reorganise NCP's structure.

Court reserves order on bail plea of Setalvad

AHMEDABAD
A court in Ahmedabad on Thursday reserved its order on the bail applications of social activist Teesta Setalvad and former Director-General of Police R.B. Sreekumar in connection with a case regarding forgery and fabrication of evidence related to the 2002 riots.

Mann discharged after stomach ache complaint

CHANDIGARH
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was admitted to a private hospital in Delhi late on Tuesday after he complained of stomach ache, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sources said here on Thursday. He was discharged from the hospital on Thursday morning, they added. PTI

Karnataka tops NITI Aayog innovation index list

Report suggests steps to secure a place among top 25 nations in the Global Innovation Index

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Karnataka has bagged the top rank in NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index, 2022, which determines innovation capacities and ecosystems at the sub-national level. The State has held this position, under the Major States category, in all three editions of the Index so far.

In the Index released on Thursday, Manipur secured the lead in the Northeast and Hill States category, while Chandigarh was the top performer in the Union Territories and City States category.

Karnataka was followed by Telangana, Haryana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Gujarat were at the bottom of the index.

Innovation index

The table lists the score and ranking of 17 major States in the third edition of NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index. Karnataka ranked first followed by Telangana and Haryana while Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar were ranked at the bottom of the index

State	Score	Rank	State	Score	Rank
Karnataka	18.01	1	M.P.	12.74	13
Telangana	17.66	2	Gujarat	12.41	14
Haryana	16.35	3	Bihar	11.58	15
Maharashtra	16.06	4	Odisha	11.42	16
Tamil Nadu	15.69	5	Chhattisgarh	10.97	17

Pointing out that India's average innovation score is insufficient, given the country's ambitious targets to be named among the top 25 nations in the Global Innovation Index, the report by the government think tank has recommended measures, such as increasing Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GDERD), promoting private sector participation in R&D and closing the gap between industry demand and what the country produces through its education systems.

The report went on to state that countries that spend less on GDERD fail to retain their human capital in the long run and the ability to innovate is dependent on the quality of human capital; India's GDERD as a percentage of GDP stood at about 0.7%.

"Therefore, GDERD needs considerable improvement and should touch at least 2%, which would play an instrumental role in India achieving the goal of 5 trillion economy," it suggested.

It added that the private sector needs to pick up pace in R&D.

Taking evidence from countries such as South Korea, and the U.S. where the presence of private players is evident, the report noted that public expenditure is productive up to some extent; once the growth follows a trajectory, it is desirable to shift to R&D mostly drive by the private sector. "Therefore, it is important for India to find that inflexion point after which private sector takes over the government sector," it added.

Sonia Gandhi appears before ED in Delhi

Expressing solidarity with the Congress chief, leaders of 12 political parties, including the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Shiv Sena and Rashtriya Janata Dal, met at Parliament House and issued a joint statement accusing the Narendra Modi government of unleashing a "relentless campaign of vendetta against its political opponents and critics through the mischievous misuse of investigative agencies".

Trinamool Congress and Aam Admi Party leaders, however, skipped the floor leaders' meeting and were not signatories to the joint statement.

After an inquiry that lasted little more than two hours, Ms. Gandhi is set to appear before them again on July 25, for a second round of questioning. Accompanied by her children, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress chief arrived at the ED headquarters a little after noon. The questioning began around half past noon, and Ms. Gandhi left the ED office along with her daughter around 2.30 p.m.

Ms. Gandhi was questioned by the same assistant director-level investigation officer who interrogated her son in the case related to alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Ltd., which owns *National Herald*. A woman officer was also part of the questioning team.

Parliament sessions were disrupted after Congress MPs staged a walkout from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, alleging political vendetta and misuse of agencies.

With tempers running high, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi asked whether the Opposition party believes everyone is equal before the law or not.

U.P. CM has resolved my issues: Khatik

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Disgruntled Uttar Pradesh Minister Dinesh Khatik struck a different tune on Thursday, after meeting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. A day after making charges of caste discrimination and graft, the Minister of State in the Jal Shakti department, said, "the CM listened to his grievances and the issues have been resolved."

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Mr. Khatik had alleged discrimination because of his caste and made charges of corruption in transfer of officials. He said officials didn't respond to his calls.

India is watching developments near LAC: MEA

The 'right step' towards enabling progress in relations is disengagement, says Arindam Bagchi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India is keeping a "relentless watch" on the developments near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and will take "necessary measures" to deal with steps that may affect India's security.

Addressing the weekly press briefing, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi, said that resolving the issues along the LAC in the western sector would help India-China relations.

"We had issued after the recent commander-level talks, a joint statement from the both sides wherein they talked about the importance of moving ahead and implement some of the agreements and understandings they have reached. They talked about frank and in-depth exchange of views and about the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest as per guidance provided by the state leaders," said Mr. Bagchi.

An Indian soldier sits inside an upgraded L70 anti-aircraft gun near the LAC. •FILE PHOTO

"Of course, our point is that if you can resolve the issues, particularly on disengagement that would help in the de-escalation and restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the western sector, it would be the right step towards enabling progress in the bilateral relation," said Mr. Bagchi.

He refused to respond to the report published in the *South China Morning Post* of Hong Kong about Beijing building a highway near Ladakh.

The highway from Lhunze county in Tibet to Mazha in Xinjiang in western China is among the 345 construction projects that are part of the proposed new national programme of China, the newspaper had reported.

Mr. Bagchi's comments came after the 16th round of military-level talks that was the latest in a long chain of conversation between the military representatives of both sides since the deadly clashes of June 2020 at Galwan Valley.

Apart from the report of construction of a new highway near the western sector of the LAC, there are also reports that China has settled personnel in villages near the Doklam region in the tri-junction of India-Bhutan and Tibet.

Mr. Bagchi declined to get into the specifics of the report on Doklam but said India was "watching" and would take necessary measures. "India maintains a relentless watch on steps that can hurt India's security and will take necessary actions," said Mr. Bagchi.

Plaudits for first woman tribal President

Top leaders congratulate Murmu; Amit Shah expresses gratitude to NDA allies and Independents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As it became clear by Thursday evening that Droupadi Murmu was all set to be elected to the office of the President of India, even before the results were announced, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reached Ms. Murmu's Delhi residence to congratulate her.

Messages poured in on social media hailing the election of the first tribal woman as the President of India.

Prime Minister tweeted that "at a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President!"

Mr. Shah said Ms. Murmu reached the highest office of the nation facing difficult circumstances and it shows the immense power of our democracy. "Even after so many struggles, the selflessness with which she dedicated herself in the service of the nation and society is an inspiration to all... I express my gratitude to NDA Allies, other political parties and Independents for voting in favour of tribal pride, Smt. Draupadi Murmu," he said in a tweet.

All smiles: (clockwise from left) Home Minister Amit Shah with President-elect Droupadi Murmu; BJP supporters celebrating the victory in Vijaywada; and artists performing folk dance in New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI, G.N. RAO & SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Singh said the President-elect had been active for public welfare not only in villages but in slums as well. "Today, she has risen from among them to the highest constitutional position. This is a proof of the strength of Indian democracy," Mr. Singh said in a tweet.

Outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted, "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Smt. Droupadi Murmu on being elected as the 15th President of India."

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, whose tenure gets over in August, also congratulated Ms. Murmu adding that "her wide experience in public life, spirit of selfless service and deep understanding of people's issues will greatly benefit the nation."

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga said in a tweet that Mizoram congratulates the "first indigeneous woman President."

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said he led a procession to celebrate the landslide victory of Ms. Murmu.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that this was India's victory and "India gets its first tribal woman President."

Bihar Chief Minister extended his best wishes to Ms. Murmu.

Laddus for the asking, and lilting dance on the streets

Odisha marks the big day with all the razzmatazz

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The tribal heartland in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha on Thursday erupted into excited celebrations as National Democratic Alliance candidate Droupadi Murmu registered an impressive victory to become the 15th President of India.

In every corner of Odisha, leaders and people congratulated each other and offered sweets, elated at Ms. Murmu, the first tribal woman and daughter of the soil, becoming the next Head of State of India.

Even the Odisha Legislative Assembly, which is in session, broke into impromptu celebrations as Biju Janata Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs distributed sweets among each other and staff members. Dressed in traditional attire, many tribal MLAs were seen dancing on the streets to rejoice at Ms. Murmu's victory.

"This is a historic moment in the life of everyone irrespective of they being tribal or non-tribal in Odisha. We are proud of Ms. Murmu who hails from this remote part of India. It is a wonderful feeling of accomplishment. The celebration is not going to be over in a day. It could stretch on for months and even a year," said Gopal Besra, who hails from Tiring, on Odisha-Jharkhand border.

Rejoicing in the victory: Tribal people of Uperbeda and Pahadpur villages performing a dance. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At her native village Uparbeda and husband's village Pahadpur, tribal people performed traditional dance to the rhythmic beat of drums. Dancers were moving in circle or semi-circle formations with arms interlocked. Their foot movement was harmonious.

In the run-up to counting of votes, 10 quintals of laddus were prepared at Rairangpur, home town of the former Governor of Jharkhand, for mass distribution. The small town was decorated with colourful lights and flooded with banners congratulating the daughter of soil.

From the morning, students of Sri Aurobindo Integral Education and Research Institute, Rairangpur, where she worked as a teacher for a brief period, and schools at Uparbeda and Bhubaneswar, where she had studied, congregated to cherish the moment.

Many referred the journey of Ms. Murmu from Rairangpur to Raisina Hill to resilience of a woman who worked her way through the cadre, and emerged stronger by overcoming personal tragedies.

On the draw

Opposition urges Murmu to guard democracy

Mamata asks her to protect the ideals of the Constitution; Stalin asks her to stand by silenced voices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties on Thursday congratulated NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu on being elected the 15th President of India.

"Congratulations and best wishes to Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji on being elected as the 15th President of India," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, in a statement, said: "I send my congratulations and best wishes to the President-elect Smt. Droupadi Murmu."

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar tweeted, "...my best wishes to you as you prepare to take up the responsibilities and charge of your esteemed office. Wishing you success in your tenure as President."

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said: "I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Presidential Elect Smt Draupadi Murmu. The country will sincerely look up to you as the Head of State to protect the ideals of our Constitution & be the custodian of our democracy, especially when nation is plagued with so many dissensions."

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin tweeted: "Hearty congratulations to Hon'ble Droupadi Murmu on being elected to the highest constitutional position of India. Emerging from the oppressed sections of the society, we strongly believe that you will stand by silenced voices to ensure a thriving constitutional democracy."

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said: "Congratulate the daughter of #Odisha, Smt #DroupadiMurmu on being elected as 15th President of India. It is indeed a very proud moment for everyone in Odisha..."

Congratulating Ms. Murmu, CPI general secretary D. Raja tweeted,"She has been elected as the custodian of the Constitution of India and I sincerely hope that she will uphold and protect the values enshrined in our Constitution. My best wishes".

"Congratulations to Smt Droupadi Murmu on being elected as the Honourable President of India. As the custodian of the Constitution of India, we look forward to the protection and strengthening of our constitutional values and the character of secular, democratic Indian republic," tweeted CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury.

Trinamool not to vote in Vice-President polls

'Not consulted before choosing Alva'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress said here on Thursday that the party's MPs would abstain from voting in the Vice-Presidential election on August 6. The decision was taken at a meeting of the MPs at the residence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"The way the Opposition candidate [Margaret Alva of the Congress] had been decided without proper consultation and deliberation with a party which has 35 MPs in both the Houses, we have decided unanimously to abstain from the voting process," Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee told journalists after the meeting.

He said almost 85% of the MPs urged party chairperson Ms. Banerjee to abstain from participating in the election. The Congress and the Left parties accused the Trinamool leadership of working as an agent of BJP.

What makes the Trinamool's decision more intriguing is that the party is not registering its opposition to National Democratic Alliance candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar, who, as West Bengal Governor, had frequent run-ins with the Trinamool leadership, especially the Chief Minister.

Mr. Abhishek, however, said questions of tacit support for him did not arise.

Asked if the decision will affect Opposition unity, he said that to maintain it, one had to rise above ego and self-interest.

"For Opposition unity, we can do floor coordination in Parliament and also take to the streets... but we have to change our approach," he added.

RS sees walkout, adjournments over price rise

DMK, TRS, AAP and CPI(M) members had given notice for a discussion on the issue and GST

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several Opposition members walked out from the Rajya Sabha on Thursday as their demand to discuss price rise and the imposition of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on packaged food products such as milk and curd was not accepted. House Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said placards and other articles were not allowed and the members who brought them shall be named in the bulletin for carrying objectionable items.

Raising voice: Opposition members protesting in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. • SANSAD TV/PTI

After the House proceedings resumed at 2 p.m., Tiruchi Siva of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said the remarks made by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur during Question Hour should be expunged because he made statements accusing the members of the Opposition parties. Question Hour could not be used for such statements, he added.

Mr. Thakur, while responding to a question, said the "ones standing here (with placards) will never raise their voice against anti-India agenda", and newspapers and TV channels should not give space to members who spread fake news on issues such as Agnipath, GST and vaccines. Mr. Siva said the members of the DMK, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) had given notice under Rule 267 to suspend the business of the day and take up discussions on price rise. Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the Chair, said the Chairman had declined the discussion.

The House was adjourned twice during the day before it was finally adjourned a little after 2.30 p.m. after Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan requested the Chair that the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 be taken up for discussion on Monday as none of the Opposition members were present.

After the House met at 11 a.m., members demanded discussion on the price rise. Mr. Naidu adjourned the House till noon.

Question Hour, which began at noon, witnessed vociferous protests with AAP members leading the charge by trooping into the Well of the House. Sanjay Singh of the AAP stood close to Deputy Chairman Harivansh's desk forcing an adjournment for 10 minutes. Members of the Left parties, the DMK and the TRS also joined the protest. Members from the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) remained seated and did not join the other members in the Well.

P. Wilson of the DMK, while participating in a discussion on the WMD Bill, said the real weapons of mass destruction were the rise in prices of essential commodities such as gas, milk and petrol, which affected the common man while the salary and wages remained the same.

Mr. Kalita asked the member to speak on the Bill and not derail the discussion as it was a matter of international commitment.

Manoj Jha of the Rashtriya Janta Dal said, "We are seeing a weapon of mass destruction and weapon of mass disruption in society" at an unimaginable scale and minds of many were poisoned in society.

'1.5 lakh given jobs during pandemic'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Department of Personnel and Training informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that over 1.5 lakh candidates were selected for Central government jobs during the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Personnel Minister Jitendra Singh said that recruitment in Central government continued even during COVID-19 pandemic.

In a written reply, Dr. Singh stated that recruitment in Central government is a continuous process and a total of 1,59,615 candidates were selected by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, popularly known as the IBPS, during 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Clarify actions taken against hate speech: SC

States told to provide information

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre and States to clarify actions taken against hate speeches even as petitioners argued that the distinction between dissent and hate speech is getting deliberately "muddied".

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar asked petitioners to prepare a chart of instances of hate speech and provide it to States in a week. The States would in turn inform the steps taken by them in these cases.

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by Maulana Mahmood Asad Madani, president of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, highlighting "incidents of hate speech and humiliation of Prophet Mohammed". The court listed the case after six weeks.

Aadvocate Meenakshi Arora said hate speech and insult of the Prophet would be an attack on secularism.

'Will act against those creating tensions'

It is important to know who is a fact-checker and who is not, says Anurag Thakur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said that lawful action had been taken on complaints against those who attempted to create tensions in society on the pretext of fact-checking.

Responding to a query from Rajya Sabha Member Manoj Kumar Jha of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), in an apparent reference to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair, Mr. Thakur said: "It is also important to know who is the fact-checker and who is trying to create tension in the society under the garb of checking facts."

Anurag Thakur

"If someone complains against them, then action is taken according to the law," he said.

Hate speech

Mr. Jha had earlier said that while fact-checkers were being proceeded against, no strict action was being taken against those indulging in hate speech.

The Union Minister said that in 2021-22, strong action had been taken against the YouTube channels "working against the interest of the country".

Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, he said the Ministry had acted against 94 YouTube channels, 19 social media accounts and 747 URLs, and had them blocked. "These actions have been taken under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act," he said.

The Minister said that the government had clamped down on the agencies working against the sovereignty of the country by spreading fake news and spreading propaganda on the Internet.

No need to amend anti-defection law: Rijiju

It stood the test of time, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is no need to amend the provisions of the anti-defection law as they have stood the test of time and judicial scrutiny, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

"Since the provisions of the Tenth Schedule (popularly called the anti-defection law) have stood the test of time and several judicial scrutinies, there does not appear to be any need for carrying out any amendments as of now," Mr. Rijiju said in a written response to a question on whether the anti-defection law in its present form is adequate to stop induced defections.

The question, asked by N.D. Gupta of the Aam Admi Party (AAP), is significant in the backdrop of recent political developments in Maharashtra and the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

IN BRIEF

SC adjourns hearing on BCCI plea to July 28

NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana on Thursday adjourned the hearing on a plea by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to allow amendment of its Constitution to July 28. The case is significant for BCCI as the date of amendments may decide the tenures of its president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah. It was while announcing this decision that the court named senior advocate Maninder Singh as its new *amicus curiae*. He replaces P.S. Narasimha, who was appointed a Supreme Court Judge.

Association seeks probe into attack on journalists

NEW DELHI

DIGIPUB, an association of digital-first media organisations, has condemned the attack on two ChaiChitra Abhiyaan journalists — Shakib Rangrezz and Vishal Stonewall — in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat on July 20. They were reporting on the impact of revised Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on food items. The journalists were in Kishanpur Baral village when they were attacked by an unknown assailant, who snatched their camera and microphone. DIGIPUB has sought a probe into the attack.

Create awareness on writings of reformers: HC

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said the Maharashtra government must change its mindset and make efforts to create public awareness on the writings of social reformers like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. A Division Bench made the statement after taking *suo motu* cognisance of media reports that said the government had stopped publishing Dr. Ambedkar's literature. The court said the State's affidavit did not have details regarding the formation of a committee to address the issue. It then sought a fresh affidavit within two weeks.

'2,466 trees uprooted for Central Vista, replanted'

NEW DELHI

Over 2,400 trees had been removed to make way for the Central Vista redevelopment project so far, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore told the Lok Sabha on Thursday. His written reply to a question by Congress member T.N. Prathapan said: "No tree has been cut in various projects under the Central Vista Redevelopment Master Plan. "Till date 2,466 trees have been transplanted at other locations. Compensatory plantation of 10 trees for one transplanted tree is being carried out at ECO Park, Badarpur," the Minister said.

Food should reach all migrant workers, SC tells Centre, States

Those without ration cards too should get foodgrains, say petitioners

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday told the Centre and the State governments that no citizen should die of hunger, and food should reach the homes of every migrant worker.

"Migrant workers play a vital role in building up of this country and the only solace they want is that you (government) take care of them and their families. If you don't take care of migrant workers, who will," Justice M.R. Shah asked the Centre and the States.

This case was originally taken up *suo motu* by the top court during the pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns in light of distress and problems being faced by migrant workers.

No safety net: Migrant labourers moving to worksites in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. • K.V.S. GIRI

The court, for instance, noticed how Maharashtra has covered only 36% of the migrant workers in the State.

"Pass percentage in exams is 35%, you have scored only 1% more...government should spare some time on this also," the Bench addressed Maharashtra counsel. "We can only push the cart, you have to drive the cart," Justice Shah said.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, meanwhile, reminded the States that right to food was a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"No citizen should die of hunger," Justice Nagarathna observed.

Justice Nagarathna remarked how the poor and marginalised in India are still having to tie a cloth tightly around their stomach to ward off hunger pangs.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioners Anjali Bhardwaj and others, said extensive data need to culled out from the e-shram portal, where 27.95 crore workers have registered, to see how many own a ration card. Those without cards should be provided rations either through the National Food Security Act or through some other scheme.

Mr. Bhushan said Telangana's affidavit shows that over 75% of migrant workers in the State did not possess ration cards.

The top court in June last year, and especially during the pandemic, passed comprehensive directions to ensure food security, including through community kitchens and distribution of dry rations without insistence on identity proof.

Mathura case: court to first hear Masjid panel

It will begin submissions on July 25

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In the Shahi Idgah Mosque-Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute, the civil judge (senior division) on Thursday decided to first hear the Masjid panel's application challenging the maintainability of the suit.

Advocate Tanveer Ahmed, lawyer and secretary of the mosque management committee, said the panel would now begin submissions on its application under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure on Monday.

Daily hearing

The civil court decided that the matter would be heard on a day-to-day basis with neither side seeking adjournments.

Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, the Mathura resident who had filed the suit and had been arguing for his application to be heard first, said he would challenge the order of the district court in the days to come. Mr. Singh had sought a commission to be set up by the court to conduct a survey of the mosque premises.

Of the civil suits in the matter currently pending in lower courts, Mr. Singh's has progressed the farthest so far.

While advocate Ranjana Agnihotri had filed a suit before Mr. Singh, it came back to the civil court only in May after having been dismissed once already.

Advocates Hari Shankar Jain and Vishnu Shankar Jain, and their team, are representing Ms. Agnihotri in the suit in Mathura.

The Jains and Ms. Agnihotri are defending some of the Hindu plaintiffs in the Gyanvapi mosque dispute. They are the plaintiffs in a Delhi suit, seeking to prove that the site of Qutub Minar was a temple.

DGCA grounds AI plane, 2 pilots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday grounded an Air India aircraft and two of its pilots after a drop in pressurisation levels forced its flight from Dubai to Kochi to divert to Mumbai.

Air India's AI 934 took off from Dubai at 1.35 p.m. with 247 passengers and crew onboard but three hours into the flight, it was diverted to Mumbai after the pilots reported a loss of pressurisation that can lead to loss of oxygen.

A senior DGCA official said the drop in pressurisation resulted in oxygen masks being deployed. He said the passengers were safe. "We are grounding the aircraft and off-rostering the pilots pending an inquiry," said a senior DGCA official. The aircraft involved was a Boeing 787.

The airline said the flight diversion was due to a technical issue.

Stop charging check-in fee at airports, govt. tells airlines

Airlines introduced the practice amid COVID-19 pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) ordered airlines on Thursday to stop charging a fee from passengers who report to the airport without a web check-in.

Some airlines like IndiGo, Go First and SpiceJet were charging a fee of ₹200 for issuing boarding passes to passengers who arrive at the airport without a web check-in.

Some airlines charge ₹200 for check-in at airports.

The fee was imposed after the MoCA issued guidelines in May 2020 requiring air travellers to check-in online and carry an e-boarding pass in a bid to reduce queues at airports and ensure social distancing as part of safety protocols against COVID-19.

"It has come to the notice of Ministry of Civil Aviation that airlines are charging additional amount for issuing boarding passes from the passengers seeking check-in at airport counters. This is not in accordance with the instructions given in the aforesaid order as per extant provisions of Aircraft Rules, 1937," read the Ministry order issued on July 21. It added that airlines were "advised" not to charge the additional amount as such a fee can't be considered under the definition of "tariff" as provided under Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules.

Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia had given an assurance in May that he would examine the issue after a passenger voiced her concerns on social media and likened the practice to a restaurant charging its guests extra for requesting a plate to eat from.

Potholes appear on part of Bundelkhand Expressway

Sample of BJP's half-finished development: SP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALAUN

A portion of the Bundelkhand Expressway developed deep potholes in heavy rain here, within a week of Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating the 296-km road.

The portion of the road developed 1.5-foot-deep potholes in rain at Chiriya Salempur in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district on Wednesday night, said UP Expressway Industrial Authority spokesperson Durgesh Upadhyay.

The potholes were repaired instantly and the road opened to traffic, he added.

Repairs under way on the Bundelkhand Expressway at Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. • PTI

The incident drew criticism, with BJP MP Varun Gandhi questioning the quality of the work.

"If the expressway built at a cost of ₹15,000 crore cannot withstand even five days of rain, then serious questions rise on its quality. The head of the project, the engineer concerned and companies should be summoned and action taken against them," Mr. Gandhi tweeted.

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav in a Hindi tweet said, "This is a sample of the quality of the BJP's half-finished development."

BJP won't get a majority in 2024: Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Accusing the BJP government at the Centre of "monumental incompetence", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said the BJP would not get a majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Addressing a huge gathering in Kolkata to commemorate the Martyrs' Day event of the Trinamool Congress, the party chairperson expressed the hope that all Opposition parties would unite once the BJP did not get the majority.

Ms. Banerjee said the 2024 Lok Sabha election would not be to elect a government but to reject the BJP government at the Centre.

Women have right to safe abortion: SC

It is part of personal liberty, says Bench while hearing unmarried woman's plea

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Denying an unmarried woman the right to a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy and freedom, the Supreme Court held in an order on Thursday.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was hearing the appeal of a woman who wanted to abort her 24-week pregnancy after her relationship failed and her partner left her.

The lower court had taken an "unduly restrictive view" that her plea for a safe abortion was not covered under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act as the pregnancy arose from a consensual relationship outside wedlock.

Chastising the lower court, the Bench said live-in relationships had already been recognised by the Supreme Court. There were a significant number of people in social mainstream who see no wrong in engaging in pre-marital sex. The law could not be used to quench "notions of social morality" and unduly interfere in their personal autonomy and bodily integrity.

Key amendment

The court noted that an amendment to the Act in 2021 had substituted the term 'husband' with 'partner', a clear signal that the law covered unmarried women within its ambit.

"A woman's right to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. She has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity," the court quoted from precedents. The court said forcing a woman to continue with her pregnancy would not only be a violation of her bodily integrity but also aggravate her mental trauma.

The court ordered a medical board to be formed by the AIIMS to check whether it was safe to conduct an abortion on the woman and submit a report in a week.

The Bench posted the case for August 2.

With Opposition absent, LS defers debate on Antarctic Bill

House to take it up today, Minister seeks participation of all

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday deferred the consideration and passing of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 for Friday, as the Opposition benches were empty due to the ongoing protests by the Congress members outside of Parliament over the Enforcement Directorate's summoning of their party president Sonia Gandhi for questioning.

As soon as the Lok Sabha reconvened after a lunch break around 2.15 p.m., Minister for Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh requested the presiding officer, Biju Janata Dal's Bhratruhari Mahtab, to defer the debate and passage of the Bill for the next day. "This is an important Bill with many facets, and I would like the debate to include the Opposition, who are not there today," he said.

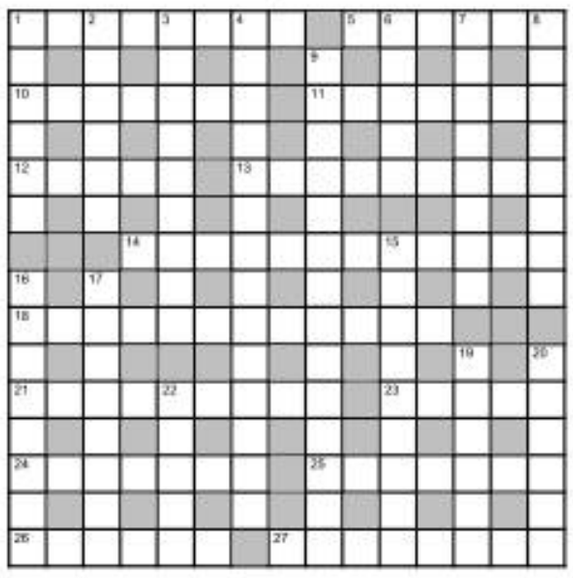
Mr. Mahtab then requested Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal to ascertain a sense of the House on the matter, and with the support of P.P. Choudhary and Nishikant Dubey of the BJP, it was agreed that the Bill would be taken up on Friday.

THE CROSSWORD + 13615

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Spiders wandering on base scatter (8)
5 Mixture consumed by raunchy bridegroom (6)
10 Problem on a craft going around island (7)
11 Fellow leaves newfound building having no possessor (7)
12 Marketing man in Indian city (5)
13 Unknown drug smuggled by slippery individual (9)
14 Overly expensive funeral of bad criminal (12)
18 Judge abandoned soft manner to reveal stern nature (5,2,5)
21 Being in deep melancholy, husband drinks whiskey and beer (4,5)
23 Worry about entertaining hot associate in African country (5)
24 Row after sailor turns more irritable (7)
25 Reprimanded severely, one abandons using a steroid (7)
26 Runs in to hack central computer (6)
27 Turn to wrap small girl in blanket (8)

Down

1 Neglect studies, lazily wasting time (6)
2 Unaffected by small boil exuding bit of pus (6)
3 Knock back peg after eating most of energy bar (9)
4 Worried old female abducted by crook communicates situation (5,2,7)
6 Agreed to take over university in South Korean city (5)
7 Master enthralled by Bernini's bust in eastern capital (8)
8 Revolting journalist drinking rum and wine moved unsteadily (8)
9 Very fast in reacting, like a speedy cartoonist might be? (5,2,3,4)
15 Criticize boyfriend popping ecstasy with silly grin (9)
16 Plants exotic shrub outside lounge (8)
17 Crow circling a pillar (8)
19 Cocktail leaving maiden tipsy at Miami (3,3)
20 Docile person in lounge, hosting quiet affair (6)
22 Abandon simple wife for siren finally (5)

SUDOKU

		4	2					
		1	5					6
9	6	8	4					3
1	5				2			7
			6		1			
6			9				5	8
3					9	6	8	5
8					5	3		
					3	9		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13614

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	8	2	7	6	1	3	4	9
7	9	3	8	4	2	1	6	5
4	1	6	9	5	3	7	2	8
6	2	7	5	3	4	9	8	1
8	3	9	6	1	7	4	5	2
1	5	4	2	8	9	6	3	7
3	6	8	1	9	5	2	7	4
2	4	1	3	7	8	5	9	6
9	7	5	4	2	6	8	1	3

FAITH

Divine intervention is vital

Scriptures proclaim that all beings are innately divine because the Supreme God dwells equally in each and every aspect of creation. But sadly, the jivas, though always associated with the Lord, are prevented from perceiving and experiencing this divine indwelling presence owing to the karma vasana that envelops all of us from time immemorial. In every birth, this ignorance gets strengthened and more deep rooted.

Vedanta Desika, in his philosophical treatise, Rahasya Traya Sara, shows that this primordial ignorance in every jiva can be overcome by the grace of an acharya, with an illustrative story, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse. Once, a young prince accompanies the king, his father, on a hunting expedition and enters the forest. He gets lost and is brought up by a tribe of hunters. He grows up in this atmosphere in total ignorance of his original identity as a prince. After some years when he is grown up, it so happens that some people belonging to the royal court identify him as the lost prince. They explain the antecedents and bring him back to the king. This reunion was made possible by some good natured people.

Likewise, the acharyas are aware of the three truths, Tatva, Hita and Purushartha, the knowledge of which alone can dispel the ignorance of the true identity of the soul of every jivatma. By God's grace, and by the jivatma's past samskaras, if by chance, the jiva gets drawn into the association of a committed acharya well versed in the sastras, he becomes keen to know about his real self and the purpose of his existence in this world. This divine intervention makes the jiva aware of his roots, and guides him to seek his rightful place in Moksha through Bhakti or Prapatti.

Li says all foreign students can return

Outbound commerce and trade activities and cross-border travel will be advanced, says China PM

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's Premier Li Keqiang has said all international students may return to China as the country considers increasing international flights more than two years into the pandemic. Tens of thousands of foreign students, including several thousand Indian medical students, have been awaiting a return to China to resume their studies, with many expressing concerns about their ability to graduate as they remain stranded overseas.

Speaking at a World Economic Forum dialogue with global business leaders, Mr. Li, the second-ranked leader, said China "will make its COVID control measures more targeted and well-calibrated under the premise of ensuring safety against COVID infections, including steadily improving visa and COVID testing policies, and further resuming and increasing international passenger flights in an orderly way."

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang says China will make its COVID control measures more targeted. • FILE PHOTO

"All international students may return to China to continue their studies should they so wish, and outbound commerce and trade activities and cross-border travel for labour services will be advanced in an orderly fashion," he added.

Officials, when asked about Mr. Li's comments, did not, however, offer a timetable. "We welcome the return of Indian and other foreign students to China and will make corresponding arrangements," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. "We have been working intensively for the return of foreign students to China. Some foreign students have already returned to China to continue their studies. As for the return of Indian students, as we have said before, the relevant departments in China and India have been in contact and made progress on this. The responsible departments in both countries will stay in close communication and work for the early return of the first batch of Indian students."

Zero-COVID policy

While Mr. Li's comments appeared aimed at assuaging increasing investor disenchantment with China amid its continuing zero-COVID policy, under which international travel has been severely restricted for more than two years, they do not suggest a significant change in the measures.

Zero-COVID, observers in Beijing said, will likely firmly remain in place at least until the once-in-five-year Party Congress, likely in October, when President Xi Jinping will begin a third term. Several cities in China remain under some form of lockdowns and mass testing continues to be deployed even when a single case is detected. Flights to China also remain limited and international travel is nowhere near pre-pandemic levels.

China's domestic economy has also taken a hit on account of the COVID restrictions, with official data showing only 0.4% growth in the second quarter, the lowest since the start of the pandemic. "On the whole, the Chinese economy has withstood the downward pressure, and has stabilised and rebounded," Mr. Li said. "That said, the recovery is not yet firmly established, and painstaking efforts are still needed to stabilise overall economic performance."

Beijing has taken limited measures ostensibly aimed at addressing concerns, such as reducing quarantine for arrivals from 21 days to 7 days. But with the rest of the world returning to some form of normalcy, China's measures still remain among the most stringent.

Italy PM Mario Draghi quits after coalition falls apart

President is likely to dissolve Parliament and call early vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME

Italian Premier Mario Draghi resigned on Thursday after his ruling coalition fell apart, dealing a destabilising blow to the country and Europe at a time of severe economic uncertainty brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine.

Mr. Draghi tendered his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella during a morning meeting at the Quirinale Palace. Mr. Mattarella, who rejected a similar resignation offer from the Premier last week, "took note" of the new one and asked Mr. Draghi's government to remain on in a caretaker capacity, the President's office said.

While the President could see if a new parliamentary majority was possible, his office indicated that he would dissolve the body and call early elections.

Mario Draghi

The turmoil couldn't have come at a worse time for the eurozone's third-largest economy. Like many countries, Italy is facing soaring prices for everything from food to household utilities as a result of Moscow's invasion. On top of that, it is also suffering through a prolonged drought that is threatening crops and struggling to implement its EU-financed pandemic recovery program.

Mr. Draghi, who is not a politician but a former central banker, was brought in 17 months ago to navigate the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. But his government of national unity imploded on Wednesday after members of his uneasy coalition of right, left and populists rebuffed his appeal to the band back together to finish the Italian Parliament's natural term.

Instead, the centre-right Forza Italia and League parties and the populist 5-Star Movement boycotted a confidence vote in the Senate, a clear sign they were done with Draghi.

"Thank you for all the work done together in this period," Mr. Draghi told the lower Chamber of Deputies on Thursday morning before going to see Mattarella. Clearly moved by the applause he received there, he repeated a quip that even central bank chiefs have hearts.

Biden gets COVID; has 'very mild symptoms'

He's taking Paxlovid, an anti-viral drug

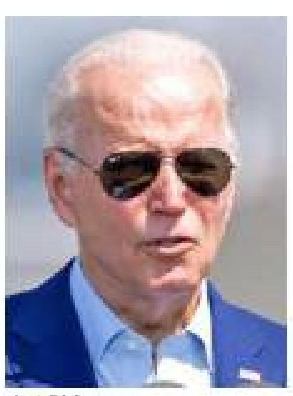
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday and is experiencing "very mild symptoms," underscoring the persistence of the highly contagious virus as new variants challenge the nation's efforts to resume normalcy after two and a half years of pandemic disruptions.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Mr. Biden has begun taking Paxlovid, an antiviral drug designed to reduce the severity of the disease.

She said Mr. Biden has "very mild symptoms" and "will isolate at the White House while continuing to carry out all of his duties fully."

She said Mr. Biden has been in contact with members of the White House staff by phone and will participate in his planned meetings at the White House "via phone and Zoom from the residence." Mr. Biden, 79, is fully vaccinated, after getting two doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine shortly before taking office, a first booster shot in September and an additional dose on March 30.


Joe Biden

And after more than two years and over a million deaths in the United States, the virus is still killing an average of 353 people a day in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ukraine and Russia to sign grain deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Ukraine and Russia were due on Friday to sign an elusive deal designed to help relieve a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain exports.

The first major agreement between the warring sides since Russia's February invasion of its neighbour comes with global food prices soaring and people in some of the countries facing starvation.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was due to arrive in Turkey on Thursday for the signing ceremony at Istanbul's lavish Dolmabahce Palace on the Bosphorus Strait.

"The grain export agreement will be signed in Istanbul (Friday) under the auspices of President Erdogan and Mr. Guterres together with Ukrainian and Russian delegations," the Turkish leader's spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin tweeted.

Russia resumes gas supplies to Europe via Nord Stream

Uncertainty over a possible energy crisis lingers in the Union

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Russia on Thursday restored critical gas supplies to Europe through Germany via the Nord Stream pipeline after 10 days of maintenance, but uncertainty lingered over whether the Kremlin would still trigger an energy crisis on the continent this winter.

Germany, which is heavily dependent on Russian gas, had feared that Moscow would not reopen the pipeline after the scheduled work and accused Moscow of using energy as a "weapon".

The showdown came amid the worst tensions in several years over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Germany believes Russia is squeezing supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions over the war.

Vital power: Landfall facility of the Nord Stream-1 Baltic Sea pipeline in Lubmin, Germany. • AP

Klaus Mueller, head of Germany's energy regulator, the Federal Network Agency, said that by late morning gas flows were on track to return to 40% of the pipeline's capacity - the same reduced level as before the maintenance work.

Enduring German reliance on Russian gas coupled with alarming signals from Moscow has turned up the pressure on Europe's top economy. A total shutdown of imports or a sharp reduction in the flow from east to west could have a catastrophic effect, shutting factories and forcing households to turn down the heat.

Even the resumption of 40% of supplies would be insufficient to ward off energy shortages in Europe this winter, experts warned.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Wednesday that a halt in supplies could slash Germany's gross domestic product this year by 1.5%.

Gotabaya gets 14-day visit pass in Singapore

Ex-President hasn't sought asylum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGAPORE

Singapore has granted a 14-day short-term visit pass to former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa as he entered the country on a "private visit" on July 14, according to immigration authorities here.

Mr. Gotabaya, 73, on July 13 fled Sri Lanka to the Maldives and then Singapore and resigned after a popular uprising against his government for mismanaging the economy. In a statement released in response to media queries about Mr. Gotabaya visit to Singapore, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) said he was granted a short-term visit pass (STVP) on arrival.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said last week that Mr. Gotabaya has not asked for asylum and neither has he been granted any asylum.

The ICA said visitors from Sri Lanka who enter Singapore for social visits will generally be issued with an STVP for up to 30 days.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Those who need to extend their stay here may apply online for an extension of their STVP. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, said the ICA.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankans in Singapore remain optimistic about the situation back home. But they say a real change has to go beyond the changing of guards with more decisive policies and more engaged voters, *Channel News Asia* reported.

Facebook removes Afghan media pages controlled by Taliban

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Facebook has removed the accounts of at least two state-owned media outlets in Afghanistan, the company confirmed Thursday, saying it was complying with laws in the United States listing the Taliban as a "terrorist organisation".

The Taliban have made liberal use of Facebook and Twitter since seizing power in August last year, and have a firm grip on state-owned media in the country – including radio and TV stations, and newspapers.

While Facebook parent Meta did not list the banned media outlets, state broadcaster *National Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA)* and the government-owned *Bakhtar* news agency both said that they had been blocked. The Facebook pages of privately owned media houses seemed unaffected.

"The Taliban is sanctioned as a terrorist organisation under the U.S. law and they are banned from using our services," a Meta spokesperson told *AFP* in a statement.

Government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid criticised the blocking, saying it showed "impatience and intolerance" by the U.S. firm.

RTA director Ahmadullah Wasiq said in a video statement that the Pashto and Dari-language pages of the organisation on Facebook and Instagram had been closed "for unknown reasons". *Bakhtar* also urged Facebook to reconsider, saying on Twitter: "The only goal of this news agency is to share accurate, timely and comprehensive information to its audiences."

The Taliban have made prolific use of Twitter since seizing power.

While most accounts linked to the former Western-backed government have been dormant since the takeover, new "official" ones have proliferated – although none with Twitter's blue tick of authenticity.

Michelle Obama's book comes this fall

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Michelle Obama will have a book out this fall, "The Light We Carry," in which she reflects upon her experiences and shares insights on navigating an increasingly stressful world.

It is the former United States First Lady's first new work since the 2018 release of her acclaimed blockbuster "Becoming," which has sold more than 17 million copies worldwide, surpassing the sales of any memoir by a previous first lady or modern president, including Barack Obama.

Crown will publish the 336-page book on November 15, a first printing of 2.75 million copies for the U.S. and Canada. "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times" will come out simultaneously in 14 languages and 27 countries, with additional rights deals expected.

पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY
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The detailed requirements for these posts and the procedure for submitting applications are available on the IITM website www.tropmet.res.in/Careers
Phase II : Scientific, Technical and Administrative Support Category.
Details/ updates regarding Phase II recruitment will be uploaded/published by 31st August 2022 on the IITM website only. www.tropmet.res.in/Careers

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
FORENSIC SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
Tender No. D1/34814/2022 — 30-A, Kamarajar Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004. — Date : 21.07.2022
Sealed tender under two bid systems (Technical bid and Price bid) are invited from manufacturers / suppliers for the supply of the Instruments / Equipments / Mobile Forensic Vehicles upto **2 p.m. on 23.08.2022.**
2) Technical bid (as per the specification given in the tender schedule) with Technical and Commercial terms without price with Earnest Money Deposit at the rate of 1% of the total value of the tender for each item separately in the form of Demand Draft / Bank Guarantee / Bankers Cheque etc. and catalogue, pamphlets and specifications in one cover superscribed "Technical bid" and a separate Price bid mentioning the price of the equipment along with tender documents duly filled and signed in another cover superscribed as "Price bid" are to be submitted.
Name of the Equipment
Instruments / Equipments / Mobile Forensic Vehicles -
Schedule (VIII A, VIII B & VIII C)
3) Tender documents can be obtained from the office of the **Director, Forensic Sciences Department, 30-A, Kamarajar Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004, Tamil Nadu, upto 4.00 p.m. on 22.08.2022** on payment of **Rs.525/-** in the form of Demand Draft / Bankers cheque / Pay Order, payable at Chennai, drawn in favour of **"The Director, Forensic Sciences Department, Chennai-4"**.
4) Tenders - "Technical Bid" only will be opened at **3.00 p.m. on 23.08.2022** in the presence of the Director i/c and Store Committee Members.
5) Tender documents can be downloaded free of cost from www.tenders.tn.gov.in
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TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
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Phone : 04852835637
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-572-2022-23
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Muvattupuzha

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Phone: 0471-2568... Fax:0471-2568602, E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in
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राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग-वृत सीकर
(डाक बंगला कैम्पस सीकर 332001; email: piu_sikar1@rediffmail.com,seskr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in)
क्रमांक:- एस.ई /सीकर /2022/ डी:- 885 — दिनांक- 06.07.2022
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : 06 / 2022-2023
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्न विवरण के अनुसार कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनो/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के 'एए' एवं 'ए' श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे निविदाऐं प्राप्त की जावेगी।

क्र. सं.	खण्ड का नाम	कार्य/ पैकेज का नाम	टेण्डर लागत (लाखों में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ई ग्रास पर चालान बनाने हेतु कार्यालय का नाम	ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने का स्थान
1	Neemkathana	RJ-29-01/DLB/BA/NKT/2022-23	375.00	08 Month	Dn-Neemkathana	Circle Sikar
2	Neemkathana	RJ-29-02/DLB/BA/KDL/2022-23	389.00	08 Month	Dn-Neemkathana	Circle Sikar
3	Neemkathana	RJ-29-03/DLB/BA/RGS/2022-23	389.00	08 Month	Dn-Neemkathana	Circle Sikar
4	Neemkathana	RJ-29-04/DLB/BA/SMR/2022-23	389.00	08 Month	Dn-Neemkathana	Circle Sikar

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(सायर मल मीणा)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत सीकर
DIPR/C/9207/2022

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471- 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)
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1.	एमएसएसजी, टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में गगनयान अनुरूपण के लिए आईएसएफ का ऊर्ध्वाधर विस्तार (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Vertical Extension to ISF for Gaganyaan Simulations at MSSG, TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/11/2022-23 Dt. 20.07.2022	(06) छः महीने / Six Months	₹ 80.35 लाख / Lakhs	₹1,60,700/-

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दिनांक 22.07.2022, 10.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 08.08.2022, 23.00 बजे/hrs	दिनांक 23.07.2022, 09.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 09.08.2022, 12.00 बजे/hrs	दिनांक 12.08.2022 को 23.00 बजे/hrs	दिनांक 16.08.2022 को 15.00 बजे/hrs

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MARKET WATCH

	21-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,682	0.51
US Dollar	79.85	0.24
Gold	49,830	-0.74
Brent oil	104.28	-2.28

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	754.25	10.70
Apollo Hosp	4150.05	39.80
Asian Paints	3066.10	59.65
Axis Bank	715.55	9.85
Bajaj Auto	4057.05	55.00
Bajaj Finserv	12716.45	295.70
Bajaj Finance	6266.90	192.50
Bharti Airtel	678.35	7.70
BPCL	322.70	5.60
Britannia Ind	3855.50	27.20
Cipla	968.50	-13.00
Coal India	198.60	0.75
Divis Lab	3794.50	52.85
Dr Reddys Lab	4171.10	-87.65
Eicher Motors	3081.20	36.20
Grasim Ind	1464.60	22.95
HCL Tech	924.45	7.05
HDFC	2242.40	11.00
HDFC Bank	1360.75	-4.30
HDFC Life	529.10	3.90
Hero MotoCorp	2847.80	21.05
Hindalco	375.95	6.60
Hind Unilever	2607.45	2.95
ICICI Bank	786.00	2.90
Indusind Bank	948.10	68.80
Infosys	1532.90	17.60
ITC	299.55	1.35
JSW Steel	587.55	-2.80
Kotak Bank	1800.55	-27.20
L&T	1765.15	25.20
M&M	1175.15	9.50
Maruti Suzuki	8797.00	47.95
Nestle India Ltd.	18839.95	222.85
NTPC	150.85	0.30
ONGC	133.10	0.55
PowerGrid Corp	212.30	3.05
Reliance Ind	2486.30	-16.70
SBI Life	1168.55	-17.50
State Bank	512.05	3.45
Shree Cement	20442.95	234.75
Sun Pharma	869.65	2.15
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	818.30	23.10
Tata Motors	454.85	1.40
Tata Steel	934.30	5.85
TCS	3177.30	12.50
Tech Mahindra	1032.75	-12.75
Titan	2288.60	17.40
UltraTech Cement	6130.70	41.70
UPL	705.00	18.75
Wipro	414.00	1.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.75	80.07
Euro	81.32	81.65
British Pound	95.44	95.82
Japanese Yen (100)	57.53	57.76
Chinese Yuan	11.78	11.83
Swiss Franc	82.05	82.39
Singapore Dollar	57.23	57.47
Canadian Dollar	61.79	62.04
Malaysian Ringitt	17.89	17.96
Australian Dollar	54.86	55.08

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

RBI reschedules MPC meeting to August 3-5

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that the forthcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, which was earlier scheduled to be held from August 2-4, has been rescheduled due to "administrative exigencies." The meeting has been rescheduled by a day to August 3-5, the RBI said.

Tata Green Batteries ties up with Tata Motors

MUMBAI

Tata AutoComp GY Batteries, operating under the brand name Tata Green Batteries, said it had entered into an aftermarket tie-up with Tata Motors to ensure hassle-free purchase and service experience for commercial vehicle consumers.
The tie-up would enable Tata Green Batteries to be available for sale across the network of Tata Motors authorised dealerships and workshops, the company said.

Adani Capital to finance Ashok Leyland CVs

CHENNAI

Adani Capital Pvt. Ltd. has entered into a pact with the Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) vertical of Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) to provide customised financial solutions for buyers in the small CV and LCV segment. Adani Capital will work towards catering to customer needs through easy monthly repayment plans. Moreover, they would leverage technology to enhance customer experience, Ashok Leyland said in a statement.

Rane Madras net surges fivefold on volumes

CHENNAI

Rane (Madras) Ltd. has reported a more than fivefold rise in standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June at ₹20 crore on higher volumes and improved sales. Income from operations grew 67% to ₹500 crore, it said. "Demand environment in India looks encouraging for the upcoming quarter," L. Ganesh, chairman, Rane Group said. "We remain cautiously optimistic given the evolving economic situation globally."

ADB pares India FY23 growth forecast to 7.2% citing price rise

Bank sees inflation quicken to 6.7%, flags erosion of consumer purchasing power

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) cut its growth forecast for India to 7.2% for 2022-23, from a 7.5% projection made in April, citing higher-than-anticipated inflation since April along with monetary policy tightening.

In a supplement to its Asian Development Outlook report, the Bank on July 21 also pared its projection for 2023-24 to 7.8% from 8% and raised its inflation projection for that year to 5.8%, just a tad below India's 6% upper tolerance threshold for price rise, from 5% earlier.

For this fiscal, the ADB has raised its inflation forecast from 5.8% to 6.7% on higher-than-expected oil prices and cautioned that elevated prices will erode consumers' purchasing power even as their confidence levels continue to improve.

Double whammy: Elevated prices along with higher interest rates will constrain demand, investment. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

While some of the impact of high prices may be offset by a cut in excise duties, the provision of fertilizer and gas subsidies, and the extension of India's free-food distribution programme, the ADB noted that private investment would soften due to the higher cost of borrowing for firms as the central bank continues to raise policy rates to contain inflation.

"Net exports will shrink due to subdued global demand and a rising real effective exchange rate eroding export competitiveness despite a depreciating rupee," the lender said. "On the supply side, higher commodity prices will boost the mining industry. But manufacturing firms will bear the brunt of higher input costs due to rising oil prices," it added.

The ADB also sees the pandemic-hit services sector 'doing well' this year.

ECB raises rates for first time in decade with net for debtors

It raises rates by 50 bps targeting record-high inflation

REUTERS
FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank raised interest rates for the first time since 2011 on Thursday and unveiled a bond-buying programme to keep borrowing costs in check for the eurozone's most indebted countries.

The ECB raised its deposit rate by 50 basis points to zero, or twice as much as it had indicated after its previous meeting, in an effort to contain record-high inflation in the eurozone.

It also raised the rate on its weekly and daily cash auctions by 50 basis points to 0.50% and 0.75%, respectively, and signalled further increases in its three rates were likely to come this year.

"At the Governing Council's upcoming meetings, further normalisation of interest rates will be appropriate," the ECB said. "The frontloading today of the exit from negative interest rates allows the Governing Council to make a transition to a meeting-by-meeting approach to interest rate decisions."

In a bid to cushion the impact of the rise in borrowing costs, the ECB also unveiled a new tool, the Transmission Protection Instrument (TPI).

Taming borrowing costs

This will let it buy bonds when it sees signs of financial fragmentation – an unwarranted divergence in borrowing costs among the eurozone's 19 countries.

"The scale of TPI purchases depends on the severity of the risks facing policy transmission. Purchases are not restricted ex ante," the ECB said.

The eurozone's central bank had not raised rates for 11 years and the deposit rate had been in negative territory since 2014.

Banks' NPA ratio likely to fall to 5-5.55% by March 2024: S&P

Agency sees credit costs stabilising at 1.5% for FY23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said non-performing loans of banks are expected to decline to 5-5.5% of the total advances by March 2024.

As per the RBI's latest Financial Stability Report, the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) declined to a six-year low of 5.9% in March 2022.

"We project the banking sector's weak loans will decline to 5-5.5% of gross loans by March 31, 2024," the rating agency said in a report. "Likewise, we forecast the credit costs to stabilise at 1.5% for fiscal 2023 and further normalise to 1.3%, making credit costs comparable to those of other emerging markets and India's 15-year average," it added.

The small and midsize enterprise sector and low-income households are vulnerable to rising interest rates and high inflation, but it expects these risks to be limited, S&P Global added.

With an economic pickup, residual stress for these segments should start abating, it said, adding that NPL recoveries are likely to also gain momentum.

'Risk management vital'

It also said India's economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6.5-7% annually in fiscal years 2024-2026. India's wide range of structural trends, including healthy demographics and competitive unit labour costs, work in its favour, it noted.

Still, if risk management does not improve, the coming growth cycle could produce a new crop of sour loans, the agency cautioned.

IDBI Bank net rises 25% on asset quality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

IDBI Bank reported a 25% rise in standalone profit after tax (PAT) to ₹756 crore in the quarter ended June, driven by improvement in asset quality, better recoveries and lower provisions.

The lender had reported a net profit of ₹603 crore on a standalone basis in the year-earlier quarter.

Managing director and CEO Rakesh Sharma said that the turnaround had really happened.

"For the first quarter (of FY23), after a long gap of four to five years, we have shown growth in advances of about 12%," he said.

"That was our guidance, against which we have been able to achieve almost all parameters."

FICCI survey shows growth slowing to 7%

FY23 forecast downgraded from 7.4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Industry body FICCI on Thursday said India's economy is estimated to grow 7% in the current fiscal, lower than an earlier projection of 7.4%, mainly due to the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties.

FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey (July 2022) also said the policy repo rate of the RBI is expected to touch 5.65% by the end of this fiscal. Currently, the policy rate is 4.9%.

The survey was conducted in June and covered leading economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector.

The survey has projected an annual median GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7%,

with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6.5% and 7.3%, respectively.

"Indian economy is not immune to global volatility, as is evident from the deepening inflationary pressures and increasing uncertainty in financial markets," FICCI said. "These factors are exerting pressure... and is likely to delay the recovery," it said.

Oil slips as rate hikes stoke demand fears

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Oil prices fell by more than $5 on Thursday as an ECB rate hike stoked demand worries, while higher U.S. petrol stockpiles, returning oil supply from Libya and resumption of Russia's gas flows to Europe eased supply concerns.

Brent crude futures lost $3.10, or 2.9%, to $103.82 a barrel by 1443 GMT.

Flows through Russia's Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline partially resumed after being shut for maintenance.

The European Central Bank joined many other central banks in raising interest rates, focusing on fighting runaway inflation rather than the economic downturn, which can weigh on oil demand.

TII to buy 76% in Moshine Electronics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd (TII) on Thursday announced that it has entered into a share purchase and shareholders agreement with Noida-based Moshine Electronics Pvt. Ltd. to acquire 76% equity stake for a total consideration of up to ₹8.64 crore.

"Through our acquisition of Moshine Electronics, we have diversified into the electronics components ecosystem which will enable us to fulfil the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision of our country," M.A.M. Arunachalam, executive chairman, TII, said.

Moshine Electronics manufactures camera modules for mobile phones. The firm reported a turnover of ₹21 crore for FY22.

Revenue of 49 auto parts firms to grow 8-10%: ICRA

Easing supply issues to aid FY23 growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Annual revenue of about 49 auto ancillaries is expected to grow 8-10% in current fiscal year from ₹3 lakh crore, rating agency ICRA said.

The revenue increase is expected on the back of a stable demand and gradual easing of supply-chain issues in 2022-23, it added.

A stable demand from the OEM segment coupled with steadily increasing premiumisation of vehicles, focus on localisation, improved export potential and EV opportunities (resulting in higher content per vehicle) would translate into healthy growth prospects for auto component suppliers, ICRA said in a statement.

While cost pressures are likely to continue in first half

of the fiscal year, Icra expects year-on-year improvement of 50-75 basis points in operating margins in 2022-23, with easing commodity prices and supply-chain issues, it added.

"While the sharp rupee depreciation vis-a-vis USD could impact the cost structure of auto ancillaries with high import dependency, the impact on margins will be driven by the ability to pass through the same."

ITC eyeing margin expansion of 100 bps a year, says Puri

'Rupee depreciation a positive for the exporting company'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Diversified conglomerate ITC Ltd. is eyeing a margin expansion of 100 basis points (bps) a year, chairman Sanjiv Puri told a virtual press conference.

"There was short-term stress," Mr. Puri said. "Last year, the margin expansion was 10 bps. Due to the extraordinary situation, we could marginally expand. But our target is to achieve 100 bps a year," he said while answering a question.

"There are signs of moderation, but the situation is dynamic. One has to monitor it," he said about the current market situation.

Stating that the sharp depreciation of the Indian rupee had positively impacted

Sanjiv Puri

the company as it was a net exporter, Mr. Puri said the company would boost exports of agricultural products in the coming years.

Last year, it had achieved an export revenue of ₹10,000 crore including agri-exports and efforts are on to increase it.

ITC said it would leverage its recently-introduced super app ITC MAARS to enhance India's share of agri-product exports.

"Our [India's] share in global trade is about 3%. From [food product] production perspective, we can grow vertically," Mr. Puri added.

He said to boost production of India's agricultural products as well to enable farmers to enhance their income, the company has come out with super app MAARS that would be a catalyst for change.

Mr. Puri said a move to hive off the hospitality business was on the cards. He also disclosed that ITC had decided to exit the lifestyle business operated under the Wills brand. The inventory is being exhausted.

Men in Blue sans top stars still the favourites

Rain forces Indians to train indoors; West Indies bolstered by Holder's return

INDIA IN WINDIES

AGENCIES
PORT OF SPAIN

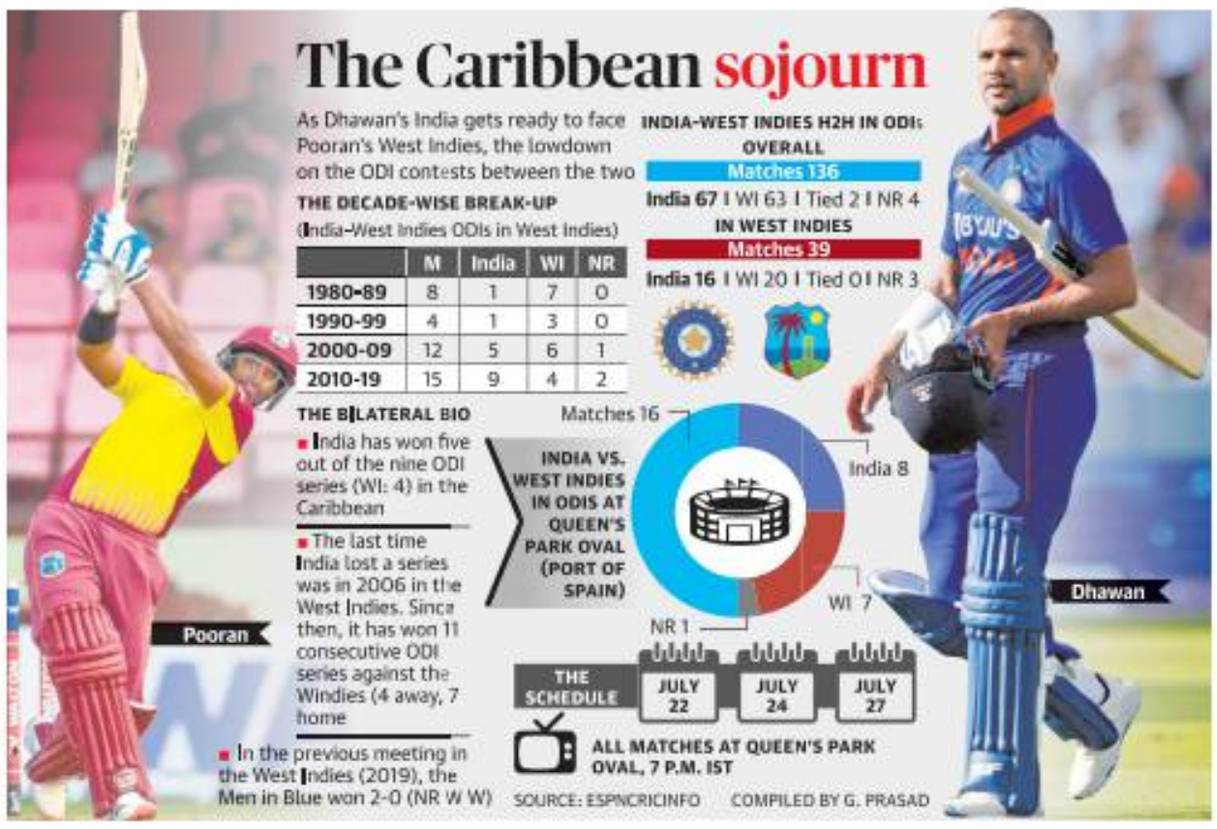
With rain playing spoilsport, the Indian cricket team was forced to train indoors ahead of the first of a three-match One-Day International series against the West Indies here on Friday. Led by Shikhar Dhawan, the Indian bowlers and batters sweated it out at the indoor training facility as rain lashed parts of Trinidad.

Best option

"As we have just come from the UK, we thought it would be nice to have (outdoor) practice session. But it started raining. And, it's always better to have a knock in the indoor facilities rather than have no session," opener Shubman Gill said in a video posted by BCCI on Twitter.

Dhawan and other batters spent some time at the nets, while young pacer Arshdeep Singh rolled his arm over.

Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami have all been rested.



This has opened a window of opportunity for the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan to make their presence felt.

Nicholas Pooran, captain of West Indies, swept 3-0 by Bangladesh in Guyana last week, complained about the quality of pitches at Providence and the early start time which conspired to favour the team bowling first.

But, that overlooks the reality that the team has been poor in the 50-over format for several years.

And, given the unsettled weather leading up to the series-opener, it is quite possible that the playing surface will not be dissimilar to the bowler-friendly conditions in Guyana.

For the home team, the one bit of encouraging news is the return of Jason Holder. Having been rested for series in the Netherlands, Pakistan and the visit by Bangladesh, the former captain will be looked to for inspiration.

Pressure is very much on skipper Pooran though to lift his team out of the doldrums into which it has appeared to sink so rapidly following series wins in Tests and T20Is against Bangladesh.

The teams:

West Indies (likely): Nicholas Pooran (Capt.), Shai Hope (wk), Kyle Mayers, Brandon King, Keacy Carty, Rovman Powell, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Akeal Hosein, Gudakesh Motie and Jayden Seales.

India (from): Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (Vice-capt.), Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh.

Full-fledged domestic season, says BCCI

SPORTS BUREAU

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to conduct a full-fledged domestic season this time around with the Ranji Trophy beginning in December.

The premier domestic tournament is expected to be played between Dec. 13, 2022, and February 28, 2023. While there will be four elite groups comprising eight teams each, the plate group will have six teams. There will be seven matches per team in the league stage of the elite group, while plate groups will have five league matches each.

Group-toppers from all the elite groups will directly qualify for the quarterfinals.

In the Apex Council meeting in Mumbai on Thursday, the Board office-bearers discussed options to revive the Irani Cup and Duleep Trophy (Zonal format) between Sept. 8 and Oct. 5.

Asia Cup in UAE: Ganguly

The Asia Cup, which was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka, has been shifted to the UAE, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said here on Thursday. "Asia Cup will be in UAE, as it is the only place where there won't be rains," Ganguly said after the meeting.

The Board also discussed the new gradation for umpires by the Umpires committee. The apex council also decided to increase the prize money for all men's and women's domestic tournaments.

Ranji Trophy elite groupings:
Group A: Bengal, UP, Uttarakhand, Haryana, HP, Baroda, Odisha and Nagaland.
Group B: Mumbai, Saurashtra, Hyderabad, Andhra, Maharashtra, TN, Delhi and Assam.
Group C: Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Services, Chattishgarh, Rajasthan, Goa and Puducherry.
Group D: Punjab, MP, Vidarbha, Railways, Gujarat, J & K, Chandigarh and Tripura.
The tentative domestic schedule:
Duleep Trophy: Sept. 8 to 25.
Irani Cup: Oct. 1 to 5
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Oct. 11 to Nov. 5
Vijay Hazare Trophy: Nov. 12 to Dec. 2.
Ranji Trophy: Dec. 13 to Feb. 28, 2023.

Jeruto takes steeplechase gold, Feng nails discus

Semenya fails to qualify; injured Kerley out of 4x100m relay

WORLD C'SHIPS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EUGENE

Kenya-born Norah Jeruto won gold for Kazakhstan in the women's 3000m steeplechase on Wednesday while China's Feng Bin threw a massive personal best to claim the discus title.

Jeruto clocked the third fastest time in history and a championship record of 8:53.02s for the steeplechase victory, with Ethiopian Werkuha Getachew claiming silver in 8:54.61s.

A second Ethiopian, Mekides Abebe, made the most of a mistake by Kenya-born Bahraini Winfred Mutile Yavi on the final water barrier, to snatch bronze (8:56.08s).

The discus was all but over after the first round as Feng threw 69.12m on her opening visit to the ring, improving by more than 3m her previous best of 66.00m set in Beijing in April.

Impressive effort: Feng Bin threw a massive personal best to take the honours. • AFP

Croatia's Sandra Perkovic claimed silver with 68.45m. American Valarie Allman took bronze with 68.30m.

Semenya's first appearance in a world championships in five years saw the controversy-mired South African fail to qualify for the women's 5000m finals. The two-time Olympic gold medallist finished 13th in the first of two rounds in 15:46.12s, more than 45s off the 15th and final qualifying place.

Sydney McLaughlin underscored her status as favourite to add a World gold to her Olympic 400m hurdles crown as she motored into a final showdown with defending champion Dalilah Muhammad.

There was bad news for the US men's 4x100m relay team as newly-crowned 100m champion Fred Kerley was ruled out of action. Kerley was diagnosed with a "slight injury to his quad" in the semifinals of the 200m, from which he failed to advance.

The results: Women: 3000m steeplechase: 1. Norah Jeruto (Kaz) 8:53.02s; 2. Werkuha Getachew (Eth) 8:54.61s; 3. Mekides Abebe (Eth) 8:56.08s. **Discus:** 1. Feng Bin (Chn) 69.12m; 2. Sandra Perkovic (Cro) 68.45m; 3. Valarie Allman (USA) 68.30m.

Annu Rani makes the final

Parul puts on a disappointing run in the 5000m

SPORTS BUREAU

Asian silver medallist Annu Rani produced her best in her last throw in the qualification round and entered the women's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, on Wednesday.

It will be Olympian Rani's second final in her third consecutive Worlds.

National record holder Rani, who was eighth at the last Worlds in Doha in 2019 and has a personal best of 63.82m, fouled her first attempt and had a mediocre 55.35m in her next before producing a 59.60m in her last effort.

Eighth overall

Though it was behind the automatic qualification mark of 62.50, which only three achieved, it was enough to see her finish eighth overall (fifth in her group 'B') and enter the final which is open to the top 12.

Just making it: Annu Rani ensured a final berth with her third and last throw. • AFP

The final will be held on Friday evening (Saturday morning in India).

Parul Chaudhary, the other Indian in action on Wednesday, was 17th in her heat (15:54.03s) and 31st overall in the women's 5000m and failed to enter the final.

Parul had won the bronze at the last Asian Championships (Doha, 2019) with a personal best 15:36.03.

It was her second event at these Worlds, she had clocked a personal best in the 3000m steeplechase heat earlier but failed to make the final.

Profitable day for Tanisha Crasto

TAIPEI OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TAIPEI

Indian shuttler Tanisha Crasto registered straight-game wins to enter the quarterfinals of women's and mixed doubles competition at the Taipei Open Super 300 tournament here on Thursday.

The results (second round):
Men: P. Kashyap bt Chia Hao Lee (Tpe) 21-10, 21-19; Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Mithun Manjunath 22-24, 21-5, 21-17; Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) bt Kiran George 23-21, 16-21, 21-7; Chen Chi Ting (Tpe) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-19, 21-13.
Doubles: Su Ching Heng & Ye Hong Wei (Tpe) bt M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila 21-17, 21-15; Lee Yang & Wang Chi-Lin (Tpe) bt Ishaan Bhatnagar & K. Sai Pratheek 21-19, 21-23, 21-9.
Women: Wen Chi Hsu (Tpe) bt Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-18, 21-13.
Doubles: Tanisha Crasto & Shruti Mishra bt Jia Yin Lin & Lin Yu-Hao 21-14, 21-8.
Mixed doubles: Tanisha & Ishaan bt Cheng Kai Wen & Wang Yu Qiao (Tpe) 21-14, 21-17.

Ramkumar to spearhead Indian team

World Group-I tie to be played on Sept. 16 and 17

DAVIS CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ramkumar Ramanathan will spearhead the Indian challenge in the Davis Cup World Group-I tie to be played on indoor hard courts in Lillehammer, Norway, on September 16 and 17.

The team was announced by the All India Tennis Association (AITA) on expected lines on Thursday, following a virtual meeting of the selection committee with Nandan Bal as the chairman.

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Rohan Bopanna, Yuki Bhambri, Sasikumar Mukund and Sumit Nagal will be the other members of the team, which will have Rohit Rajpal as captain and Zeeshan Ali as the coach.

Divij Sharan, who featured in the World Group play-off tie against Denmark at the Gymkhana Club gives way, as Ramkumar has been playing top-class doubles and is ranked second best at 64 behind Bopanna (21).

The Norway team is expected to feature World No. 6 and the French Open finalist Casper Ruud. Viktor Durasovic (320) and Luukas Hellum Lilleengen (1189) have been the other members of the team in the earlier ties.

With the postponement of the Asian Games by a year, the concern of AITA was easily resolved and the Indian team can assemble in strength after the US Open.

Ramkumar. • FILE PHOTO

Talukdar and Dipti best among Indians in recurve

A bad day in the compound section

ARCHERY WC

SPORTS BUREAU

Jayanta Talukdar and Dipti Kumari emerged the best Indian archers in the recurve ranking rounds at the Archery World Cup Stage-4 in Medellin, Colombia, on Tuesday.

Talukdar gathered 661 points to take the 25th slot among men. Aditya Choudhary (656, 30th), Kapil (641, 62nd) and Sachin Gupta (637, 67th) followed the seasoned Olympian.

Dipti Kumari scored 647 points to place 20th in the women's individual rankings. Komalika Bari (642, 29th), Aditi Jaiswal (632, 45th) and Ishita (615, 55th) were the other Indians in the fray.

India was 10th, eighth and 12th in men's team (1958), women's team (1921) and mixed team (1308) rankings respectively.

In compound, the fourth-placed Indian men – Bhagwan Das, Priyansh and C.R. Srither – were beaten by fifth-ranked host Colombia 236-235 in a keenly-fought quarterfinal match.

The sixth-ranked Indian women – Pragati, Srishti Singh and Madhura Dhamangaonkar – also lost to the third-seeded home team 233-228 in the quarterfinals.

Uwe Seeler passes away

He was an iconic player for West Germany

Legend: Seeler led West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BERLIN

Uwe Seeler, one of the iconic figures of post-war German football and who skippered West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final, has died at the age of 85, officials said on Thursday.

"Hamburg mourns Uwe Seeler. He was the first top scorer in the Bundesliga. He has now died surrounded by his loved ones," said a statement by the municipality of Hamburg, the city where he spent his club career.

Seeler, who was born in 1936, made his debut for Hamburg in 1953 and went on to make 476 appearances before his retirement in 1972.

He was later club president, but resigned in 1998.

Seeler played a total of 72 matches for West Germany between 1954 to 1970, scoring 33 goals but never won a World Cup.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs South Africa: 2nd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 5.30 p.m.
West Indies vs India: 1st ODI, FanCode & DD Sports, 7 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.15 p.m.
Ireland vs New Zealand: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 8.30 p.m.
World Athletics Championships: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), Sony LIV & World Athletics Facebook & YouTube channels, 5.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Rahul tests positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

India batter K.L. Rahul on Thursday tested positive for COVID-19, which is likely to rule him out of the upcoming five-match T20 series against the West Indies, starting July 29 at Tarouba.

He was rested for the ODI series beginning on Friday.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly informed about Rahul after the Board's Apex Council meeting here.

Vingegaard wins stage

Froome COVID-19 positive, pulls out

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HAUTACAM

Overall leader Jonas Vingegaard tightened his grip on the Tour de France by winning stage 18 on the Hautacam mountain on Thursday after dropping defending champion Tadej Pogacar 4km from the finish.

The Dane now leads Pogacar by 3min 35sec with just three stages left.

The pair hugged at the finish line after sharing a memorable moment earlier when the leader waited for the two-time defending champion, who had fallen on the last descent, to catch up. Four-time champion Chris Froome pulled out ahead of the stage after testing COVID-19 positive.

Vingegaard. • AFP

India to field third women's team

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO
CHENNAI

India added a third women's team on Thursday to make it even number of entries in the Chess Olympiad beginning at Mamallapuram on July 28. Members of India C are Eesha Karavade, M. Varshini Sahiti, B. Pratyusha, P.V. Nandhidhaa and Varsha Vasnawala. GM Shyam Sundar could be the coach.

The seeding in the Open section saw a change when India replaced Azerbaijan as the second seed behind USA. The change was forced following the withdrawal of Azerbaijan's Teimour Radjabov. As a result of the average rating of Azerbaijan placing it sixth, Norway, Spain and Poland now occupy third to fifth places.

The Olympiad anthem, composed by A.R. Rahman, was also launched.

FIH team to visit India next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A three-member FIH delegation is expected to visit India on August 15 for an emergency meeting to assess progress made with regards to adoption of a new Constitution which is a must to salvage the World Cup scheduled to be held in 2023.

FIH on Wednesday sought a "detailed timeline" from the court-appointed CoA on adoption of amended Constitution and holding of fresh elections of Hockey India. If HI does not adopt a Sports Code-compliant Constitution at the earliest, India runs the risk of losing the hosting rights of World Cup, scheduled from January 13 to 29.

Confident: Harika feels the Indian contingent is well prepared to defend its top status.. • FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Harika stays fully focused

Expectant mother training at home, away from teammates

CHESS OLYMPIAD

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

GM Dronavalli Harika is plotting her strategy for the Chess Olympiad – to be held in Chennai from July 28 – at home (in a few weeks she will be a mother) far away from her teammates.

"We are all eagerly awaiting what is arguably one of the toughest tournaments. The preparations are going well and the focus is on giving our best," Harika told *The Hindu*.

"I don't know how it will turn out. Mentally it is not so different but physically it is totally different and I am trying to not let it affect me," the three-time World championship bronze medallist said.

"Training at home is not difficult, but it feels a little different not being able to do many things normally," she said. "I am in touch with most of them (teammates). We have known one another for many years, so it's not difficult," she said.

Strong contenders

"We are top seeds but there are several equally strong teams. Given my condition, the situation is totally different for the team," Harika said.

"I don't think there will be any pressure. We are all professionals, and understand that success and failure are part of the sport. This team is highly focused and motivated," Harika said.

"Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Poland are among teams that are strong but have lesser ratings," said Harika, who has competed in 10 Olympiads since 2004 when she was just 13, including two online.

Personal goals

"If we can win medals in the Olympiad, that should inspire more people to take up chess," she said. "Personally, my goal is to be World champion and World No. 1 and, thankfully, I have amazing family support always because of which I can play for as long as I want," she said with a smile.

Her employer, Indian Oil, has also provided huge support, she remembered gratefully.

Shaili to miss u-20 Worlds

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Long jumper Shaili Singh will miss the World Athletics under-20 Championships, which begin in Cali (Colombia) on August 1, with an injury.

The silver medallist at last year's Under-20 Worlds in Nairobi injured her toe a few days ago during training.

"There is a mild fracture on her toe...she was doing hurdle jumps during training and hit a hurdle a couple of days before the Patiala trials (for the junior Worlds, July 8). The doctor said she'd be okay in one week but she is not able to wear her spikes," said Anju Bobby George.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bengaluru to host National Open athletics
The Athletics Federation of India has shifted the 61st National Open, scheduled to be held in Jamshedpur from October 15 to 19, to Bengaluru. The Karnataka Athletics Association will conduct the event on the same dates at the Kanteerva Stadium, said an AFI circular.

Seher Atwal in the van
Seher Atwal played a fine back nine and carded 2-under 70 to edge past overnight co-leader Neha Tripathi (71) in the 10th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Prestige Golfshire course, here on Thursday.
Sneha Singh, playing only her second tournament as a professional, shot a second straight 71 and was placed third at 2-under 142, while Nayanika Sanga also shot 1-under 71 to be fourth at 1-under 143 for two rounds.
Pranavi Urs made some amends for her first round of 76 with a 3-under 69 that saw her rise to fifth place at 1-over 145, but is still five shots behind leader Seher.
The scores (top five): 140: Seher Atwal; **141:** Neha Tripathi; **142:** Sneha Singh; **143:** Nayanika Sanga; **145:** Pranavi Urs.

KSFA certificate coaching course
Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) will conduct AIFF's 'D' License Certificate Coaching Course from August 3 to 8 at the Bangalore Football Stadium. Interested candidates can visit the KSFA office at the stadium or contact ceoksfa@gmail.com / 8050296058.

Bopanna in doubles semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna, seeded fourth with Matwe Middelkoop, cruised past Nikola Cacic and Dusan Lajovic 6-4, 6-2, in the doubles quarterfinals of the € 1,911,620 ATP tennis tournament in Hamburg in Germany on Thursday.

Other results:

$53,120 Challenger, Indianapolis, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Purav Raja & Divij Sharan bt Rinky Hijikata (Aus) & Nicholas Monroe (USA) 6-2, 7-5; John-Patrick Smith (Aus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Hady Habib (Lib) & Li Tu (Aus) 6-3, 6-7(6), [10-7].

€45,730 Challenger, Tampere, Finland: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Kyrian Jacquet & Clement Tabur (Fra) 6-7 (4), 6-1, [10-2].

$60,000 ITF women, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan: Doubles (quarterfinals): Mariia Tkachevva & Anastasia Zolotareva bt Shavit Kimchi (Isr) & Ankita Raina 6-4, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Zdena Safarova (Cze) 6-3, 6-3; Jennifer Luikham bt Camilla Gennaro (Ita) 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(7). **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Diana Maria Mihail (Rou) & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Veda Varshita Ranabothu & Priyanka Rodricks 6-4, 6-1.

$15,000 ITF men, Seremban, Malaysia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Vishnu Vardhan bt Thantub Suksumrarn (Tha) 6-3, 6-7(2), 7-6(1); Kento Takeuchi (Jpn) bt Madhwin Kamath 7-6 (11), 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Tomohiro Masabayashi & Daisuke Sumizawa (Jpn) bt Patrick Toman (US) & Vishnu Vardhan 6-2, 6-2; Uisung Park & Ji Hoon Son (Kor) bt Darrshan Suresh (Mas) & Madhwin Kamath 6-2, 6-0.

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Niki Poonacha bt Moerani Bouzige (Aus) 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-4. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha bt Maxence Beauge (Fra) & Mu Tao (Chn) 6-3, 7-5.

$15,000 ITF men, Colombo: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Quentin Folliot (Fra) bt Lohithaksha Bathrinath 6-3, 6-4; Rishi Reddy bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 3-6, 6-2, 5-2 (retired); Digvijay Pratap Ssingh bt Mao Takada (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; Karan Singh bt Simone Agostini (Ita) 6-2, 6-4; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Shohei Chikami (Jpn) 6-3 (retired); Manish Sureshkumar bt Tommy Czaplinski (US) 6-1, 6-2; Farden quamar bt Taketo Takamisawa (Jpn) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Paras Dahiya 3-0 (retd.).

Doubles (quarterfinals): Adil Kalyanpur & Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Quentin Folliot (Fra) & Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-4, 6-7 (2), [10-5]; Parikshit Somani & Manish Sureshkumar bt Tommy Dzaplinski (US) & Palaphoom Kovapitukted (Tha) 6-3, 6-4; SD Prajwal Dev & Rishi Reddy bt Lohithaksha Bathrinath & Tushar Madan 6-4, 4-6, [10-6]; Jagmeet Singh & Karan Singh w/o. Preston Brown (US) & Shohei Chikami (Jpn).

HC stays BAI decision against KBA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

- A single-judge bench issued a notice to the respondents giving them two weeks' time to file their objections
- A KBA official stated that the stay order would give the body some breathing space

The Karnataka High Court has stayed Badminton Association of India's (BAI) decision to disaffiliate Karnataka Badminton Association (KBA) citing the State association's non-compliance in amending its Constitution and bringing it in line with BAI bylaws.

A single-judge bench of Justice S.G. Pandit issued a notice to the respondents – BAI, Union Sports Ministry, Government of Karnataka and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Karnataka – giving them two weeks' time to file their objections.

In response to BAI's decision on July 13 to disaffiliate it, the KBA had filed a writ petition in the High Court claiming that the BAI had not given any notice and the move was a "violation of the principles of natural justice".

A KBA official stated that the stay order would give the body some breathing space and that badminton activities would soon resume.

"We will decide our next course of action, including amending the bylaws to bring it inline with National Sports Code, after meetings with all our members by the end of the month," he said.

Lagos wins Osman Sagar Cup

HYDERABAD: The five-year-old mare Lagos, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Osman Sagar Cup, the main event of the opening day's races here on Thursday (July 21).

The winner is owned by Mr. S. Pathy & Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. D. Netto trains the winner.

Jockey Akshay Kumar stole the limelight by riding four winners of the day.

1. CON AMORE PLATE (Div. I) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **NUGGET** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Malibu (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Clefairy (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Dr Dee Dee (Aneel) 4. 1/2, Nk and 1/2. 1m 7. 38s. ₹12 (w), 11, 16 and 57 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 146, SHW: 13 and 15 (p). FP: 24, Q: 26, Tanala: 491. Favourite: Nugget.
Owners: Mr. Puttamreddy Prathap Reddy & Mr. Soma Raju Adipudi. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. TENACITY PLATE (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): **CLASSY DAME** (R.S. Jodha) 1, Turning Wheel (Abhay Singh) 2, N R I Secret (Santosh Raj) 3 and Sye Ra (Deepak Singh) 4. 4-3/4, 1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m 14. 08s. ₹59 (w), 18, 12 and 29 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 76, SHW: 35 and 15, FP: 171, Q: 60, Tanala: 792. Favourite: Turning Wheel.
Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

3. CON AMORE PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **THE SENSATION** (Abhay Singh) 1, Ivanhoe (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Desert Sultan (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Silver Lining (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: N R I Angel. 3-1/2, 3-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m 7. 09s. ₹22 (w), 13, 18 and 19 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 49, SHW: 16 and 29, FP: 90, Q: 68, Tanala: 610. Favourite: The Sensation.
Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

4. ADILABAD PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BANGOR ON DEE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Visionary (Surya Prakash) 2, Exotic Dancer (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Theo's Choice (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 2-1/4, 1 and 3/4. 1m 6. 78s. ₹17 (w), 12, 24 and 16 (p). SHP: 81, THP: 41, SHW: 11 and 52, FP: 127, Q: 78, Tanala: 388. Favourite: Bangor On Dee.
Owners: Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mr. Vazhaparambil John Joseph. Trainer: L.D' Silva.

5. P.M. BOKDAWALLA MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **FALCON EDGE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, N R I Sport (B.R. Kumar) 2, Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 3 and Miss Little Angel (Santosh Raj) 4. Nk, 1-1/2 and 1/2. 1m 26. 25s. ₹33 (w), 16, 14 and 49 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 117, SHW: 24 and 21 (p). FP: 215, Q: 85, Tanala: 4,183. Favourite: Blue Origin.
Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. ADILABAD PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **AYR** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Vision Of Rose (Santosh Raj) 2, Costello (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Explosive (G. Naresh) 4. Not run: Sorry Darling. 3-1/4, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m 6. 76s. ₹13 (w), 12, 14 and 15 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 41, SHW: 14 and 30, FP: 34, Q: 30, Tanala: 100. Favourite: AYR.
Owners: Mrs. Rajini Meka, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mr. Ayyadevara Srinivas. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

7. OSMAN SAGAR CUP (1,200m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **LAGOS** (Suraj Narredu) 1, New Look (R.S. Jodha) 2, Chuckit (Surya Prakash) 3 and Scramjet (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 1/2, Hd and 1. 1m 12. 54s. ₹17 (w), 12, 14 and 46 (p). SHP: 42, THP: 75, SHW: 15 and 24, FP: 67, Q: 48, Tanala: 930. Favourite: Lagos.
Owners: Mr. S. Pathy & Mr. B.E. Vasnath Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

8. SCARLET PRINCE PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **THE IMAGE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, True Icon (Gaurav Singh) 2, Archangels (P. Gaddam) 3 and Mireya (D.S. Deora) 4. Not run: Mysterious Angel. 5-3/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m 26. 43s. ₹17 (w), 11, 10 and 88 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 225, SHW: 15 and 12, FP: 28, Q: 17, Tanala: 582. Favourite: The Image.
Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

Jackpot 70%: ₹347 (1,538 tkts.) & 30%: 68 (3,331 tkts.).
Treble (i): 361 (162 tkts.), (ii): 102 (418 tkts.), (iii): 56 (1,017 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot (i): 2,875 (60 tkts.), (ii): 192 (352 tkts.).

Indian Bank
Corporate Office: Estate Department
Tel: 044 – 2813 4618/ 4305/ 4401 / 4498

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

INDIAN BANK invites e-tender in Two Bid System (Technical and Price bid) for Selection of Architectural Consultant for the proposed construction of residential building for Bank Executives at Luz Avenue, Ramachandra Road, Mylapore, Chennai.

For details, please refer our website www.indianbank.in/tenders or https://www.tenderwizard.com/indianbank

Deputy General Manager (Estate)

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Ph.No.: 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, Email : edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bid for item (i) Microdrills with 2 handpeices and burrheads, (ii) Surgical Operating Microscope for ENT Use are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 13.07.2022 ; 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/" or website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in"

UBN : MSC2223GLRC00039

Executive Director (EPM)
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd. Jaipur

Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur, Phone :- 0141-2226537 Ex.:-299
E-mail :- acezoneii@yahoo.com/acejaipur2.pwd-rj

File No:-715 Date: 4.7.2022

NIB NO-10/2022-23

Bids for 3 No. works (Building works) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM on 29.07.2022. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1049.97 lacs.

UBN NO. (1) PWD2223WSOB03561, (2) PWD2223WSOB03555, (3) PWD2223WSOB03535

(Manwar Ali)
DIPR/C/9157/2022 Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD Zone-II, Jaipur

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)
(An Autonomous Institution under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and an Institution Deemed to be University)
Jakkur Post, Bengaluru - 560 064, INDIA

Advertisement No: JNC/AO/No.07/2022 July 22, 2022

Notification

The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) is a premier research institution under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. An institution Deemed-to-be-University, it is known for interdisciplinary research, and is equipped with state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities and provides excellent support to its faculty members in achieving ambitious goals in their academic activities and research. JNCASR invites applications from Indian nationals including OCI card holders for the position of Faculty Fellow (equivalent to an Assistant Professor) in the frontier areas of science and engineering. For more details, refer to Centre's website: https://www.jncasr.ac.in/openings/faculty-position

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
JNCASR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)
E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-9-10-2022-2023 &T-SG-36-AMC-Comp2-22-23 Dt. 19.07.2022

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works up to 14.00hrs on 10.08.2022.

1) Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-9-2022-2023
Name of the work: S&T work in connection with deep screening of track, point and crossing by BCM/Manual in SSE/P.Way/TNM, Sr.DEN/North, DEN/East & Sr.DEN/Central jurisdictions over TPJ Division.
Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees: Rs. 62.04 Lakhs
EMD Amt: Rs. 1,24,100/-
Validity Offer : 60 Days
Closing Date and Time: 10.08.2022 @ 14.00 Hrs
Period of Completion in months: Twelve Months

2) Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-10-2022-2023
Name of the work: Annual Zone Contract of S&T gears over TPJ Division for the year 2022 – 2023
Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees: Rs. 50.40 Lakhs
EMD Amt: Rs. 1,00,800/-
Validity Offer : 60 Days
Closing Date and Time: 10.08.2022 @ 14.00 Hrs
Period of Completion in months: Ten Months (To be completed within 30th June 2023).

3) Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-AMC-Comp2-22-23
Name of the work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract of Desktop Computers, Accessories and Printers in Tiruchchirappalli division for Two years.
Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees: Rs. 10.33 Lakhs
EMD Amt: Rs. 20,700/-
Validity Offer : 45 Days
Closing Date and Time: 10.08.2022 @ 14.00 Hrs
Period of Completion in years: Two years

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through https://www.ireps.gov.in/
GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI

Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, DRM Office Complex, , Tiruchchirappalli – 620001.

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JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE-TW-II/2022-23/D-6 Date : 20.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: EE-TW-II/01/2022-23

Online bids are invited up to **6.00 PM** for the work of **"Traffic improvement and beautification work at OTS crossing JLN Marg. JDA, Jaipur (Construction of suspended bridge. Traffic island, Rotaries, Underground art gallery, Pedestrian pathway, Sculpture, fountain, improvement of existing drainage system and road surafce etc.) on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis"** of **Rs. 150.00 Crore.** The last date for applying bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up to **6.00 PM dated 30.08.2022.** Details may be seen in the bidding document at our office or the website of State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in for participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the bid and pay the bidding document fee. RISL processing fee online only. The bid security may be deposited through online or bank guarantee (BG).

2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government or Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Raj. Samwad/C/2022-23/5301 Executive Engineer-Traffic Works-II

Government of Rajasthan
Local Self Government Department
(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)
G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil Lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.: +91 141 2222489, Fax No.: +91 141 2222403
Website : www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

No: F 55 () PA/CE/DLB/SBM2.O/Legacy waste/2022/55568 Date 14.07.2022

Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)

Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by Directorate of Local Bodies for following clusters up to 22.08.2022.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State and LSG Department website. The approximate value and UBN of the procurement is as under.

S. No.	UBN	Description	Approximate Value (Rs in lacs)
Cluster 1	DLB2223WLOB11354	Dump site legacy waste remediation as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended time to time and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 guidelines for ULBs of Cluster 1	3605.00
Cluster 2	DLB2223WLOB11356	Dump site legacy waste remediation as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended time to time and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 guidelines for ULBs of Cluster 2	5541.00
Cluster 3	DLB2223WLOB11358	Dump site legacy waste remediation as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended time to time and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 guidelines for ULBs of Cluster 3	11833.00
Cluster 4	DLB2223WLOB11360	Dump site legacy waste remediation as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended time to time and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 guidelines for ULBs of Cluster 4	4035.00

(Hridesh Kumar Sharma)
DIPR/C/9468/2022 Director cum Joint Secretary

Government of Tamil Nadu
PUBLIC (ELECTIONS-II) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI - 600 009.
Tender No.2/567/2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies / Agencies for entrusting the work of **Supply of Holograms** for Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) for a period of four (4) years as per the guidelines / instructions of the Election Commission of India. The details can be seen in the tender document which can be downloaded free of cost from the website **www.tntenders.gov.in** and **www.elections.tn.gov.in.**

1. Queries from the Companies / Agencies should be sent to the e-Mail id **sec2.pelecd@tn.gov.in** by 05:00 P.M. on 01.08.2022. The reply of the queries of the Companies / Agencies shall be uploaded by this Department by 05:00 P.M. on 08.08.2022 in the website **www.elections.tn.gov.in** only.
2. The last date for submission of tender document - 3.00 P.M. on 12.08.2022.
3. Technical Bids Opening to ascertain Number of bids received - 04:30 P.M. on 12.08.2022.
4. Detailed Technical Evaluation by the Tender Evaluation Committee.
5. Financial Bid Opening - To be communicated later.
6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :- Rs.1,00,000/-

For contact :
044 - 25665327

Additional Chief Electoral Officer and Additional Secretary to Government

DIPR/3496/Tender/2022

Government of Tamil Nadu
PUBLIC (ELECTIONS-II) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI - 600 009.
Tender No.1/567/2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies / Agencies for entrusting the work of Printing and distribution of PVC + Polyethene Terepthalate Glycol (PETG) with new security features for new voters during the Summary Revision and Continuous Updation for a period of four (4) years as per the guidelines / instructions of the Election Commission of India. The details can be seen in the tender document which can be downloaded free of cost from the website **www.tntenders.gov.in** and **www.elections.tn.gov.in**

1. Queries from the Companies / Agencies should be sent to the e-Mail id **sec2.pelecd@tn.gov.in** by 05:00 P.M. on 01.08.2022. The reply of the queries of the Companies / Agencies shall be uploaded by this Department by 05:00 P.M on 08.08.2022 in the website **www.elections.tn.gov.in** only.
2. The last date for submission of tender document by e-Tender module - 3.00 P.M. on 12.08.2022.
3. Technical Bids Opening to ascertain Number of bids received - 03:30 P.M. on 12.08.2022.
4. Detailed Technical Evaluation by the Tender Evaluation Committee.
5. Financial Bid Opening - To be communicated later.
6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :- Rs.5,00,000/-

For contact :
044 - 25665327

Additional Chief Electoral Officer and Additional Secretary to Government

DIPR/3496/Tender/2022

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, K R Pura Division,
Old Madras Road, K R Pura, Bengaluru - 560 036

No: EE/KRP/TND/05/2022-23 Date: 21.07.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (K.R. Pura) invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/any State or Central Govt. Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Est. Cost (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
	Single Cover System		
1.	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Sir M V Nagara Surrounding Area in **Ward No-25** of Horamavu Sub-division (SC Reserve) (Call-4)	20.00	25,000/-
	Two Cover System		
2.	Providing Seating Arrangements, Lightings and Sounding & Other Interior Works to Auditorium Building at Govt First Grade College Premises in K R Pura **Ward No-52** (Call-2)	300.00	4,50,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Sl. No. 1 Reserved for SC. (2) Availability of RFP Documents on **22.07.2022** onwards. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **27.07.2022** at **11:30** am in the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura. (4) Last Date for Tender Queries & Clarifications is **01.08.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Last Date Submission of Tender Documents on or before **02.08.2022** at **4:00** Pm. (6) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division on **04.08.2022** at **4:00** pm. (7) Tenders will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, KR Pura Division on **04.08.2022** at **4:00** pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer - K R Pura Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene